

# Owen mission on Rhodesia goes to Africa next week

With 1978 still the target date for Rhodesia's transition to the independent state of Zimbabwe, a team of Anglo-American experts, led by a Foreign Office specialist, is going to Africa to consult all parties, including Mr Ian Smith. to see how a settlement can be reached. Announcing this in the Commons yesterday, Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, said he expected the team to report back early next month.

## US joins team seeking settlement in 1978

By David Spanier  
Diplomatic Correspondent

In a new effort to keep the momentum going for a peaceful settlement in Rhodesia, Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, announced yesterday that British and American officials will go to Africa for consultations with all the parties concerned.

The team, described as a "consultative group," will be led by Mr John Graham, Deputy Under Secretary at the Foreign Office in charge of African affairs. He will start next week. Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State, will appoint a senior American official shortly.

Dr Owen told the Commons yesterday that Mr Vance and himself were in full agreement on the best way to carry matters forward.

"Both Governments wish to reiterate their determination to work for the independence of Rhodesia under majority rule in 1978," Dr Owen said. "They have been encouraged by their contacts so far to believe that detailed consultations about an independence constitution and the necessary transitional arrangements could be a satisfactory way to achieve this."

They had, therefore, agreed

Britain and the United States should now begin "interim consultations" with the parties.

Although Dr Owen still has 1978 as the target date for independence for Rhodesia, as a new state of Zimbabwe, the stage is likely to take months. Quite apart from difficulty and uncertainty of operations, a whole range of issues remains to be settled before a constitutional conference can be called.

It may well be that Mr. Sham will find the obstacles great to overcome. If that proves, unfortunately, to be the case, the British Government will have to draw the conclusion that it cannot be of help as it stands.

But Dr Owen believes that, with the dangers involved in an escalation of the "armed struggle", and the desire of most of the African leaders for peaceful settlements, his new policy has a chance.

The United States role has been fully confirmed. American officials will work hand in glove with the British team. If Mr Mugabe or Mr Nkomo, leaders of the Patriotic Front object to the Americans' presence, the British side of the consultative group can as doubt proceed on its own.

But it is the firm British hope that the Patriotic Front will not boycott this latest attempt to find a settlement, and Dr Owen will not accept venoms. In due course, a British liaison office will be established in Dar es Salaam or Lusaka.

As for Mr Ian Smith, Dr Owen has already told him to his face that he would have to step down before an election. A great deal depends, there-

## New York judge ends ban on Concorde

From Peter Stratford

New York, May 11  
British Airways and Air France won a significant victory in New York today when Judge Milton Pollack, of the federal district court, ruled that the ban on landings of Concorde at Kennedy airport was illegal.

Air France immediately announced that it would start daily Concorde flights in view of the legal battles still to be fought, but said that it intended to begin its flights on the same day as Air France, whenever that might be.

The ban was imposed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which runs the airport, in response to opposition to Concorde from local residents. Judge Pollack ruled today that the authority did not have the power to prevent Concorde landings for a test period, as they were approved last year by Mr William Coleman, who was then Secretary of Transport.

Before, as it always has done, on Mr Smith's own authority. Hugh Noyes writes: Dr Owen told the House that he expected the Anglo-American team of experts to report back to him in early June. Mr Graham would have no precise terms of reference, and would be operating under the direct authority of the Foreign Secretary. There was great urgency to reach a settlement.

His announcement was greeted with wariness on the Labour back bench and world weary cynicism on the Tory front. Many Labour MPs were concerned that too deep an involvement by the United States could bring not only a reciprocal initiative from the Soviet Union, but also a backlash from many African leaders already suspicious of the ill-fated Kissinger proposals.

Mr Martin Flannery, Labour MP for Sheffield Hillsborough, pointed out that the front line presidents had made clear that they did not want the United States to become involved. This attempted involvement by America gave the impression that we could not go ahead on our own, said Mr Flannery.

There was also a suspicion in the House, which Dr Owen's words did little to allay, that a compromise settlement might be arranged at too high a price.

For the sake of getting

the controversial subject off the back of the British Government, Labour MPs, led by Mrs Barbara Castle, and Miss Joan Lestor, tried without too much success, to pin Dr Owen down to a commitment to a franchise in Rhodesia involving "one man or one woman, one vote."

The Foreign Secretary was careful not to commit himself.

From the Tory front bench, Mr John Davies, although welcoming the new initiative in much the same way as a drowning man would clutch at a straw, and in particular the services that have flown to Rhodesia since May 24 last year,

He found there was no doubt of "the federal Government's exclusive statutory responsibility" for noise abatement. The fact that noise regulations were often left to local airport authorities was the result of voluntarily granted authority.

Our Air Correspondent writes:

Senior management of both Concorde-operating airlines, British Airways and Air France, and of the British and French manufacturers of the supersonic airliner, were last night summoned to a meeting at the decision of the judge.

Both airlines are ready to begin supersonic services to New York by the end of June. Their Concorde would cross the north Atlantic in three and a half hours, compared with the seven hours taken by subsonic jets.

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## HOME NEWS

## Substandard homes decline by two fifths in five years

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

The number of substandard dwellings in England and Wales has fallen by more than 40 per cent in the past five years, according to estimates disclosed yesterday for the first time by the Department of the Environment.

The figures are based upon a hitherto unpublished survey carried out by the department last autumn and were given in evidence to a Commons select committee on expenditure. They will come as a distinct surprise to critics of housing policy, although it must be emphasized that they relate only to the physical fabric of buildings and not to questions of overcrowding and homelessness.

According to the survey, in October last year 900,000 dwellings are classified as unfit for habitation, compared with 1,244,000 in the 1971 census. The number without one or more basic amenities declined still more steeply, from 2,866,000 to an estimated 1,500,000.

Officials said, however, that they expected the decline to slow because of the decrease

in the number of slum clearance and comprehensive re-development schemes.

The department also admitted in evidence that methods of assessing local authorities' housebuilding programmes "varied in quality, were not comparable with each other and were not comprehensive". It was now seeking to develop standardized methods of assessing housing requirements, which would require local authorities to apply criteria laid down by the Government in drawing up their programmes.

Mr Arthur Jones, Conservative MP for Dagenham and chairman of the committee, suggested that there had been a "fundamental flaw" in these authorities' had submitted programmes based on expectations while the Government had tried to develop a strategy based on need.

Mr Peter Rumble, an under-secretary at the department, conceded that until last July, when restrictions were placed on loan sanctions, there had been an "open-ended" commitment to new housebuilding. He agreed that the new policy represented a "fundamental change".

Delegates to the conference passed the rejection motion after being told by Mr John Baldwin, general secretary of the construction sector, that union leaders were losing their credibility with their members. If there was a phase three, he said, union officials might lose control of their members.

His account of frustration, hostility and hatred in the manual file was the clearest exposition yet by any union leader of the difficulties of defending the social contract.

Referring to the present pay policy, he said: "We are policing a policy that our people are completely rejecting." Frustrations within his union were such that this week his office in London had been occupied and, last month in Scotland, he had been threatened with a knife.

"I can take as much abuse as the next man, but the time must come when enough is enough," he said. "It is not nice to have your suit ripped to face open hostility and hatred because you are trying to defend a discredited policy."

The knife, he said, had been pointed at him by an angry picket after he had addressed a mass meeting at Highland Fabrication, on the Cromarty Firth. "He showed the knife and screamed: 'We'll get you!'" Mr Baldwin added.

"Many people argue that the riot was triggered by the large numbers of police who moved in to arrest picketers who were clearly visible in the crowd."

Everybody, including the police, say lessons have been learnt from last year's riot. The three police commanders who have responsibility for this year's carnival are anxious that it should be a happy occasion.

Like the local council, however, they are concerned that there is no body clearly responsible for its organization.

The three officers, Commanders John Thornton, Charles Jackaman and Edgar Maybanks, were at Tuesday's abortive meeting between the two groups. As yet the level of policing at the carnival has not been decided.

Although the police are determined not to be accused again of provoking trouble, it is clear that a serious crime will again not be allowed to pass unchallenged. It is also probable that, although police strength will be considerable, it will be far less conspicuous than last year.

The only possible solution to the dispute at the moment seems to lie in which committee gets financial support from the Arts Council, the Community Relations Commission and other official bodies. The Carnival Development Committee says its budget for this year is £99,000, against last year's £10,000. The Carnival Arts Committee's budget is much less than £99,000.

The dispute is between the Carnival Development Committee, which has traditionally organized the occasion, and the newly formed Notting Hill Carnival Arts Committee.

Mr Solvyn Baptiste, a West Indian poet and musician and the director of the Carnival Development Committee, said yesterday that the other committee was trying to make political capital out of the carnival and turn it to its own political advantage. Its members had no experience of handing the carnival, and should "clear out", he said.

Mr Louis Chase, head of the arts committee, and chairman of the Westminster Community Relations Council, said his com-

## Phase three rejected by AUEW conference

From Tim Jones  
Labour Reporter  
Eastbourne

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers committed itself to a clash with the Government when it decided yesterday to reject a further year of wage restraint. It ignored warnings by Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, that failure to agree on a phase-three pay policy would lead to higher prices, fewer jobs and less investment for industry.

Delegates to the conference passed the rejection motion after being told by Mr John Baldwin, general secretary of the construction sector, that union leaders were losing their credibility with their members.

If there was a phase three, he said, union officials might lose control of their members.

His account of frustration, hostility and hatred in the manual file was the clearest exposition yet by any union leader of the difficulties of defending the social contract.

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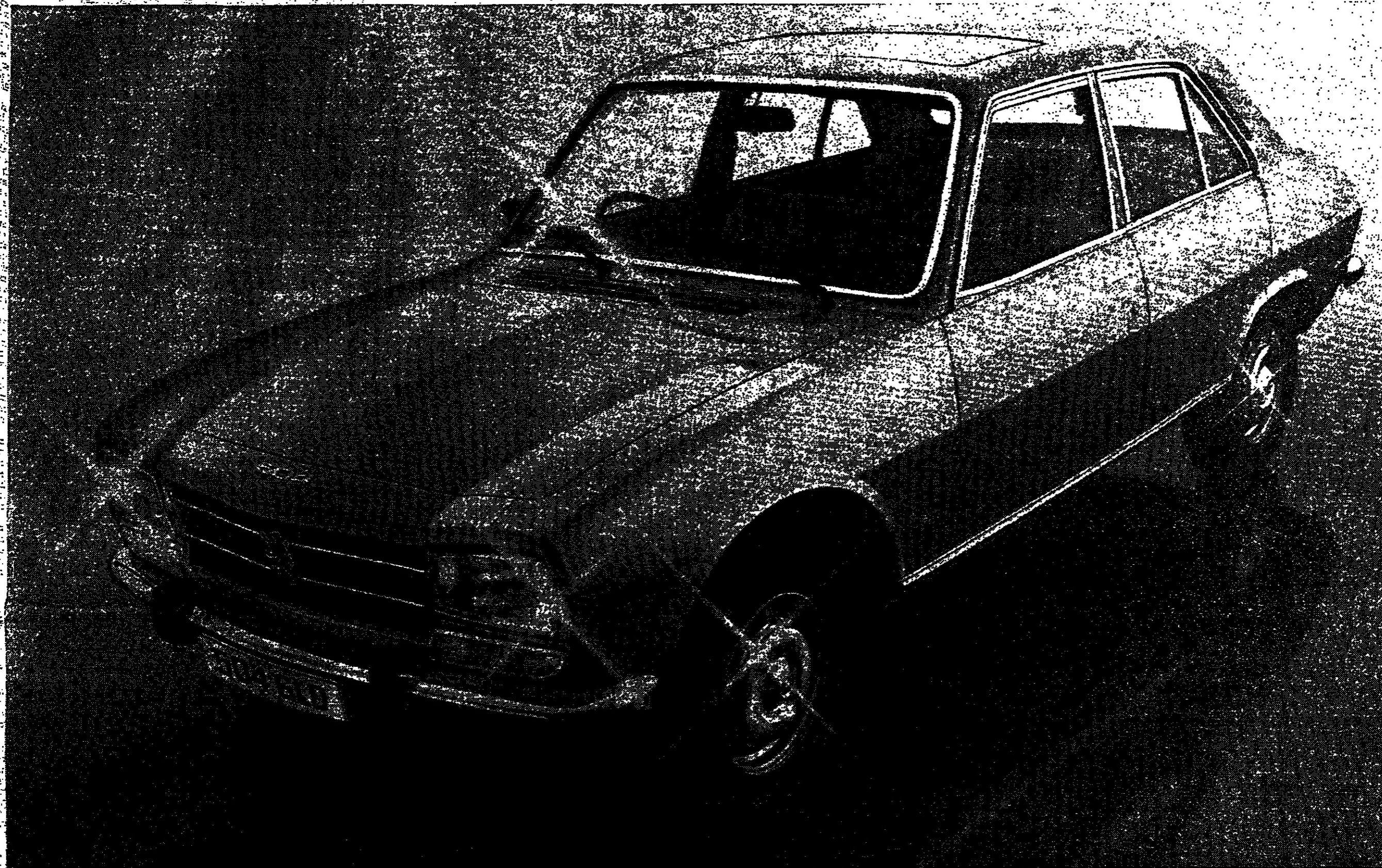
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# Drive around with a millionaire.



## The Peugeot Diesel Millionaire.

**Peugeot have built a million Diesel engines, designed for smooth power, long life and economy.**

Until you have made a million you will never know the kind of smooth, luxurious power it can bring. The outcome of all the years of experience that Peugeot had in producing a million units is the refined and modern range of engines which now power the 504 Diesel range. A 504 Diesel deserves to be called "The Millionaire" because it brings to the motorist the ultimate combination of smooth power, low-cost operation and sheer driving pleasure.

Autocar said "The exceptional quietness of the GLD... makes for a high degree of comfort on long journeys."

When testing the GLD in France, the Financial Times said "At its best cruising speed of 75 m.p.h., I would have defied anybody to tell me whether it was diesel or petrol engined."

It's millionaire-style motoring but at around 30% saving in overall fuel cost compared with a similar sized petrol engine in and around town.

It's millionaire-style motoring but with a tough, robust motor car built for extra long life.

The Peugeot 504 Diesel range; the 1.9 litre LD Saloon, or the luxurious 2.3 litre 504 GLD Saloon. Two stylish Estates. The LD, with the same engine as the LD Saloon but up to 67 cu. ft. of load space. And lastly, the 504 Family Estate Diesel with three rows of forward facing seats, the economical solution to the problems of group transport, whether family or business. Both the GLD Saloon and Family Estate Diesel are available with automatic transmission.

For power, smoothness, long life and all round economy - you won't find better value for money than a Peugeot 504 Diesel.

Test drive the 504 Diesel at your local Peugeot dealer. Until you do, you'll never know how far diesels have come. You'll never discover how advanced Peugeot diesels are.

## The Diesel powered Peugeot 504.

504 Diesel Saloon: 504 LD £3,996 504 GLD £4,472.  
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World famous for strength

## HOME NEWS

## Windscale inquiry a block on £350m Japanese contract

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor  
An outline of the case for building the controversial plant for reprocessing nuclear waste at Windscale, Cumbria, was published by British Nuclear Fuels yesterday. It suggests that the equivalent of 35 million tons of coal a year could be recovered by extracting uranium and plutonium from the spent fuel, which would come from Japanese, British and other power stations.

The statement also reveals that a 10-year contract to reprocess 1,600 tonnes of oxide fuel from Japan is ready for signing as far as technical considerations are concerned.

The outstanding issues to prevent completion are clearly the public inquiry into plans for Windscale and the attitude of the American Government, which is involved because the enriched oxide fuel from Japan originated in the United States.

The transfer of the fuel to a third country for reprocessing can be done only with an American licence. Licensing is being examined by a special study group on the nuclear question established by the science minister in London last weekend.

The Japanese contract would be worth £200m for reprocessing plus a further £150m for transport. Another 1,600 tonnes would be reprocessed by Cogema, the French company. British Nuclear Fuels will provide the transport arrangements for both organizations.

An outline of the case for expansion has to be submitted

before a public inquiry. British Nuclear Fuels said yesterday that the document had been sent to organizations and individuals who will be opposing the development. The inquiry opens on June 14 at the request of Mr Short, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The main arguments in support of the scheme are that reprocessing helps energy conservation and provides the best means of isolating long-life radioactive wastes.

Much of the case for expansion focuses on advantages of building a big reprocessing plant to take British and overseas fuel. New plant could not be in operation until the late 1980s, by which time 500 tonnes of oxide fuels from the advance gas-cooled reactors now coming into operation in the United Kingdom could be expected each year.

Development and design work show, according to British Nuclear Fuels, that capital and operating costs for a plant to reprocess 1,200 tonnes a year would be only a fifth greater than one for 500 tonnes. Hence the conclusion that construction of a 1,200-tonne plant by overseas business would be desirable, contributing £600m in the long term to the balance of trade.

It is estimated that the new plant will provide 750 jobs for local people and, of course, employment for contractors.

The case for the opponents of reprocessing plants are among the subjects of a meeting on a non-nuclear world to be held on Saturday.

**Age and beauty:** A 1926 three-litre Bentley, one of 94 Bentley and Rolls-Royce cars in a Vintage Transport Enthusiasts' Club auction at Alexandra Palace, London, yesterday. Prices paid included £12,500 for a 1924 Bentley.

# POST ROOM

NOT FOR STAMPS

## Cinderella?



Most companies have a post room: most neglect it. Most pay a price - in cash, in wasted time and effort.

How many of these questions could you honestly answer now?

### Every 'Yes' can be expensive

- \* Are our people doing work the Post Office would willingly take over?
- \* Do we pay agents to do what the Post Office would help us to do for nothing?
- \* Could the post room be better organised and equipped?
- \* Are we failing to use the post room more effectively in our marketing operation here and overseas?
- \* Do we pay more postage than necessary?
- \* Do the letters I sign wait until next morning before they go?

For some thought-provoking answers in all these areas - read on! There is also a film entitled "The great mail room mystery" which is available on loan.

### Wrap up the parcel problem

You already know, of course, that we deliver regularly and swiftly to any address in the country. But we offer many special facilities for the businessman. For example: More than 2,500 firms post over 80 million parcels



a year under individually negotiated contracts.

Perhaps your parcel deliveries are local rather than nationwide. Then we can probably offer next-day delivery for less than the cost of running your own vans. And you'll find us flexible on dimensions and packaging requirements.

### Door-to-door security

Datapost and Datapost 'D' are for people who need secure, courier-style, overnight delivery of urgent packages of any kind.

International Datapost for the conveyance of urgent business papers or documents operates to major business centres in USA, Brazil, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Australia, Japan and Hong Kong.

### Stimulating Sales

Direct mail, or advertising through the post, is flexible, selective and personal. Its works quickly and results can be accurately measured. It stimulates response - particularly if you use the Business Reply or Freepost services. And we help by giving a rebate on bulk mailings. Rebate can be as much as 30%!

If you'd like to know more about direct mail, we have available a film, "What the others can't do,"

and an interesting series of free booklets. Tick the coupon to order.

### The one who finds the answers

Your local Postal Service Representative can give you advice on any postal service, including those mentioned above. The PSR will also tell you about special courses run by the Post Office for post room staff. Your PSR will help you to use the Postal Services in the most cost-effective way.

Send the coupon below:  
Jackie Willbourne, FREEPOST,  
Room 434, Postal Headquarters,  
St Martins-le-Grand,  
LONDON EC1B 1HQ.

No stamp needed.

Please ask my Postal Service Representative to make an appointment.	
Booklets. Please send me:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Post room service
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Royal Mail parcels service - simply the best
<input type="checkbox"/>	A quick guide to Overseas Postal Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Datapost
<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct Mail.
Information please:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fill in. I am interested in borrowing your films for business purposes and/or details.
NAME _____	
POSITION _____	
COMPANY _____	
ADDRESS _____	
POSTCODE _____ TEL _____	

Mr Stanley Holder, a member of the college council, said an independent body should be established to investigate suspected incidents.

Mrs Jean Perrin, a nursing officer from Hammersmith, London, and a member of the college's Society of Primary Health Care Nursing, said a new pattern of behaviour might be developing. Her district has a population of 65,000, but in the past two months she had been involved in two cases of abuse. One concerned a physically feeble woman of 85, and the other a severely disabled man aged 88.

In 18 years of district nursing

### Cruelty to elderly 'is increasing'

From John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent  
Bournemouth

Surprise was expressed at the conference of the Royal College of Nursing, at Bournemouth yesterday at the recent statement by Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, that there is no evidence of increasing cruelty to old people in their own homes.

Such cruelty seems to be increasing, the conference was told. Nurses, particularly health visitors and community nurses, often knew of or suspected incidents, but facts were difficult to establish.

Mr Stanley Holder, a member of the college council, said an independent body should be established to investigate suspected incidents.

Mrs Margaret Pickett, of Leeds, said mental cruelty and neglect place children of elderly people were sometimes kept out of the way and not spoken to.

Mrs Margaret Davis, a health visitor, from Gwyndwr, said that since she and social workers normally worked a 9-to-5 day, it was difficult to collect evidence of incidents occurring after 5 p.m.

Miss Ema Few, of the Society of Primary Health Care

ing those were the first such cases she had seen.

Mrs Molly Curry, a community nursing sister of Cleveland, said she had become suspicious of the way a paralysed man of 80 was being treated by his wife. She noticed that his nose was severely abraded and considered that it might have been rubbed on a rough carpet.

Mrs Elizabeth Hamah, a casualty unit nurse from Swindon, said doctors were reluctant to believe that incidents of family violence took place. A girl had admitted to nurses that she had kicked her grandmother, who was admitted to the unit with a leg injury, which needed three months treatment; but it had been difficult to persuade the doctor that the injury was not accidental.

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Miss Ema Few, of the Society of Primary Health Care

is particularly important in dealing with psychiatric patients, it was suggested. Nurses were required to do much talking and listening. Knowledge of dialects, colloquialisms and even obscenities were necessary for understanding patients.

The conference carried a motion urging Mr Ennals to ensure that all overseas nurses and students employed in the National Health Service should have an adequate knowledge of English.

A wide knowledge of English

is particularly important in dealing with psychiatric patients, it was suggested. Nurses were required to do much talking and listening. Knowledge of dialects, colloquialisms and even obscenities were necessary for understanding patients.

The meeting discussed the development of policy in preparation for a possible return to free collective bargaining later this year.

Shaking up the debtors' Hall said that members wanted not only restoration of differential, but better differentials, reflecting qualifications.

### Woman says PC slapped her face

Sian Adey-Jones, a former beauty queen, told a court yesterday that a policeman called her "a little cow" and slapped her face.

Miss Adey-Jones, aged 19, who held the title of Miss Wales until last month, was giving evidence at Mold Crown Court.

Earlier the judge said he would direct the jury to dismiss one of the charges against her, of assaulting Police Constable Colin Avery. But she still faced a charge of assaulting Woman Police Constable Patricia Evans.

The alleged offence arose from incidents at Colwyn Bay in November last, when Miss Adey-Jones's friend, Mr Stephen Cryer, was arrested for refusing to take a breath test. She said she had 95 stitches in her face and plastic surgery after being injured in a road accident.

Her face was still sensitive the night she and Mr Cryer went to a reception. She had three glasses of wine there and on the way home her friend's car was stopped by the police.

She said Mr Cryer went in the police car, returned to his own car, put his head through the window and said: "Give me a kiss." Because he had been eating garlic sausage and onions she sprayed him with a mint breath freshener carried.

WPC Evans came up to the car and asked: "What's that?" and she replied that it was a breath freshener, but the police woman opened the car door and tried to get her hands.

Miss Adey-Jones said the officer held her wrists tightly and in order to make her let go, she "peeled back her fingers." She also pleaded with her and a police constable to let go. Then she lashed out and kicked PC Avery between the legs.

It had been alleged that Miss Adey-Jones assaulted PC Avery by kicking him. But Judge David QC, said the incident arose from the snatching of the handbag containing the spray.

In law, if the bag and spray had been taken without force it would have been lawful for the police to retain them. But the court would conclude that the taking of the bag was unlawful if it was by force. She was not under arrest at the time her face was slapped and there was no justification.

### Sentence on Fittleton commander quashed

By Arthur Reed

Douglas, Isle of Man

The Isle of Man's defiance of international pressure to make it abolish its birching laws was made clear yesterday. It is in the text of a formal resolution to go before Tynwald, the Manx Parliament, on Tuesday.

The resolution takes note of last year's majority decision by the European Commission on Human Rights that birching is in breach of the Convention on Human Rights on "degradation and inhuman treatment".

It adds: "Tynwald reaffirms its policy to retain birching for crimes of violence as a 'desirable safeguard in the control of law and order in this island'."

Since the commission's decision the Manx Government has resisted moves by Strasbourg and Whitehall to get a total ban on birching. As a result, formal charges are to be laid before the European Court of Human Rights, which will be answered by the British Government as signatory to the Convention on Human Rights on behalf of the Manx Parliament.

The resolution may embarrass Britain, which was asked by Strasbourg to try to achieve an amicable settlement by getting the Manx Parliament to abolish birching. It calls on the British Government to uphold Tynwald's policy in the international court and get reversal of the European commission's condemnation of birching.

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## ONE NEWS

## Total of prisoners granted parole is equal to the population of six large jails

Patricia Evans  
The Times Correspondent  
A sharp rise in the number of prisoners granted parole last year followed new guidelines agreed by the Home Office and the Parole Board.

Sir Louis Pether, the board's chairman, said today yesterday the total number of

paroled prisoners at any one

time in 1976 was 2,750, com-

pared with 2,000 the previous

year. This is equivalent to

the population of six fairly

large prisons, he said. Although

the primary object of

parole is not to relieve pres-

sure on the prison system, the

figures will be more than wed-

ding to those desperately try-

ing to cope with overcrowding

in the guidelines said parole

should be granted more readily

to prisoners whose record

is no likelihood of their

committing offences while on

parole. At one end of the scale

there is a man sentenced in

say four years for manslaughter under

circumstances and thought

likely to commit another

offence. At the other is the

convict with a long record of

robberies and burglaries,

who suggests a poor prospect

of his going straight in future

no likelihood of his com-

mitting a grave crime.

One of the most encouraging

features of the increase in num-

bers paroled is that the failure

to do so remained constant

as the liberalization of the

system continued.

In 1976 just under 8 per cent

of the number finally granted

parole that year were recalled.

A slight increase on the 7.7 per

PAROLE: ENGLAND AND WALES, 1968-1976

	Total eligible	Released	Opted out	Recall
1968	10,865	1,157	910	NA
1969	7,278	1,835	490	93
1970	8,454	2,210	641	138
1971	10,388	2,971	735	227
1972	9,844	2,926	710	237
1973	10,814	3,544	768	252
1974	10,981	3,507	824	270
1975	10,154	4,028	689	311
1976	10,950	4,926	583	394

\* Figures include backlog of prisoners who became eligible on April 1, 1968.

The question is whether it would be advisable to do so, and on that the board is divided, for such a scheme would have to be applied in all cases or none.

One consideration is that some men would find it difficult to face the real reasons for refusal of parole. There is also the possibility that relations with staff might be harmed.

Prisoners released on parole have included Anna Mendesohn and Hilary Creek, two members of the Angry Brigade. Apart from an assessment that they would be unlikely to get into the same kind of trouble again, the board was aware that they would have spent more than five years in prison, taking into account the time in custody before conviction.

Even release plan: The Home Secretary was urged yesterday to reconsider his decision not to introduce an early release scheme for short-term prisoners (the Press Association reports). Mr Nicholas Hinton, director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, told a conference at Cambridge that such a scheme could significantly reduce prison overcrowding, especially in local prisons, where the problems were most severe.

"Mr Marilyn Rees has now been Home Secretary for eight months, but as yet he has announced no measures to deal with the dire state of our prisons," Mr Hinton said. It was hardly surprising that prison and borstal governors had called for urgent action to reduce the prison population.

A scheme to help alleviate the uncertainty is with the Home Office. Experiments conducted within the Parole Board suggest that, although each prisoner could not be told in detail reasons for refusal, he

could be given a better, if still fairly general, idea.

The question remains whether it would be advisable to do so, and on that the board is divided, for such a scheme would have to be applied in all cases or none.

One consideration is that some men would find it difficult to face the real reasons for refusal of parole. There is also the possibility that relations with staff might be harmed.

Prisoners who have committed less serious offences against property are the ones who are gaining most from the changes. The number of cases of people guilty of violence against the person is still small.

A sign of the greater confidence that prisoners have in the system is the decrease in those opting out: from 30.3 per cent in 1972, 31.5 per cent in 1973, and 32.8 per cent in 1974. The 1975 figure is 46 per cent. Only 1 per cent were paroled in the early days of the scheme.

There has been a dramatic change in the number of convictions accepted by the Home Office on recommendations by local review committees without reference to the board, leaving it to concentrate on more difficult cases. The

## Writers seek Callaghan help on lending right

By Our Arts Reporter

The Prime Minister is to meet a group of writers today to discuss the public lending right—a payment to writers to compensate for the use of their books in public libraries.

The group, which will include Mr Kingsley Amis, Miss Maureen Duffy and Miss Bridget Brophy, are to ask for Mr Callaghan's intervention

to secure the passage of Lord Willis's Bill, passed by the House of Lords in March and still waiting to be introduced in the Commons.

It is believed to be the first time a British Prime Minister will have received a representative group of writers. The other member of the party will be Miss Elizabeth Howard, Mr Frank Muir, Lord Willis and Mr Angus Wilson (Writer's Guild of Great Britain); Lady Antonia Fraser and Mr Francis King (Society of Authors), and Dame Veronica Wedgwood (PEN Club).

A government measure to introduce PLR was lost last session by a filibuster of eight MPs. The writers will ask Mr Callaghan to confirm the Government's commitment to the Bill, which has all-party support, against a repetition of such wrecking tactics.

### Trawlers join Navy

Two Fleetwood trawlers and their crews have been chartered for a Royal Navy exercise in the Clyde to test mine counter-measures.

The wholesale price of sides

of bacon fluctuates constantly.

In March the British wholesale price was £365 a ton, compared with £330 in February 1976. Yet the ranges of shop prices quoted for each month in government figures were almost identical.

The Retail Consortium said there was no exploitation in shops. The United Kingdom Provision Trade Federation, which represents suppliers of imported bacon, said: "Our members have absolutely nothing to do with the price situation."

Food prices have often been

worsened by the food industry's

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## HOME NEWS

## Kirk report urges early devolution referendum

From Ronald Faux  
Edinburgh

A call for a referendum followed by quick action on Scottish devolution is to be made to the General Assembly to the Church of Scotland, which opens on May 24.

A report by the church and nation committee, published yesterday, said the failure of the Government's guillotine motion in the Commons raised serious difficulties. All four main parties in the last general election had promised some kind of Scottish parliament with greater or lesser powers. It seemed clear that, no matter how the Scottish electorate voted, the setting up of a Scottish legislature depended on enough English, Welsh and Irish MPs supporting their Scottish colleagues.

Statements that such a constitutional change in the government of the United Kingdom must not be pushed so far that they might be inadequate conclusion sounded reasonable except that self-government had been seriously discussed in Scotland for decades. "It is not the fault of the Scottish electorate that many non-Scottish MPs have been uninterested in what was happening in Scotland. It is unjust to claim that devolution has suddenly been foisted upon them. This is not so," the report stated.

For the future of Scotland and the United Kingdom, it was vital that an effective new initiative should be taken, it added. Otherwise there was the danger that bitterness and frustration would increase. As the Kilbrandon commission had stated, "there are some substantial and persistent causes of discontent which may contain the seeds of more serious trouble".

### Football club theft

Gerald Alber Halsey, aged 35, of Merrow Woods, Guildford, Surrey who was catering manager of Chelsea Football Club, was fined £100 at Hammersmith Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, for stealing a £400 ice-making machine from the ground.

### Gypsy site study

A tour of gypsy sites will be made on Monday by Mr Marks, Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment. He will visit authorized and unauthorized camp sites at Oldham, Preston and Liverpool.

## Tories' Perth agenda cool on devolution

The Scottish Conservatives begin their annual conference in Perth today cooler than ever towards devolution, and with an agenda containing more resolutions opposing a Scottish assembly or complained of the dangers of separation.

The debate this afternoon will focus on a motion welcoming the Commons' action in preventing the enactment of the Scotland and Wales Bill without adequate discussion. It calls for a "searching re-examination" of the entire structure of government as the basis of fresh proposals for effective devolution.

To pro-devolution Tories, the selection of this motion from a list of 52, some of them enthusiastically in favour of setting up a directly elected Scottish assembly, signals that the party leadership is being applied and that the Tory appetite for devolution has increased little since Mr Heath's famous debate in 1968.

Mr Edward Taylor, Conservative MP for Glasgow, Cathcart, may be finding it difficult to conceal his own strong desire for devolution beneath his mantle as opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, and Mrs Thatcher has not emerged as one to press any measure that a substantial number of Tories

believe could damage the unity of Britain.

Mr Taylor has admitted that anyone seeking a cast-iron commitment to a set of proposals on the Scottish assembly would not be happy with the motion, but he believed it was the one that came closest to the views of the party in Scotland.

The reply to the debate will be given by Mr Francis Pym, opposition spokesman on devolution and House of Commons affairs, who recently called for all-party talks on the subject without preconditions or pre-conceptions.

As the Perth delegates are likely to find, no preconditions may be possible, but not to expect preconceptions, in the Scottish political climate.

The conference will end on Saturday with a rally addressed by Mrs Thatcher. Earlier that day a private session will consider the Fairways report on party organisation. It proposes that full administrative, organisational and financial control of the central office in Edinburgh should be transferred to the Strand range, higher than the other rooms, with four tripartite semicircular windows high up, and a ceiling painted like a blue sky with clouds.

For the first time since 1836, the rooms will be reopened and rehired with partners from July for the 150th jubilee exhibition.

London and the "Thames", mounted by the National Maritime Museum on behalf of the Department of the Environment.

## Historic art rooms to open for jubilee

By Philip Howard

The Fine Rooms on the second floor of Somerset House are about to be reopened to the public after a lapse of a century and a half, having been lovingly and handsomely restored to Chambers' original design by the Department of the Environment.

The Fine Rooms on the first floor, including the Royal Academy's Antique Academy and Assembly Room, were restored and reopened in 1974, and first used for the Churchill centenary exhibition. The rooms on the second floor include the Great Room, where the academy held its exhibitions, an anteroom, and a room for the School of Painting.

The Great Room, familiar

from paintings, is in the centre of the second floor of the Strand range, higher than the other rooms, with four tripartite semicircular windows high up, and a ceiling painted like a blue sky with clouds.

For the first time since 1836, the rooms will be reopened and rehired with partners from July for the 150th jubilee exhibition.

London and the "Thames", mounted by the National Maritime Museum on behalf of the Department of the Environment.



Sir John Betjeman, the Poet Laureate, and Lady Birk, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, looking at the restored Great Room at Somerset House.

changes of perspective on the long ascent up the stairs.

Sir Joshua Reynolds, addressing the first Royal Academy school class in 1780, said:

"This building in which we are now assembled will remain to many future ages as an illustrious specimen of the architect's abilities. It is our duty to

endeavour that those who gaze with wonder at the structure may not be disappointed when they visit the apartments."

The Fine Rooms of Somerset House are now fully restored to their architect's design, and once again provide one of the finest settings in the kingdom for hanging fine paintings.

## Bus subsidies to small private firms opposed

From Our Correspondent  
Oxford -

Oxfordshire County Council, which uses its bus subsidies to back small private rural firms rather than the National Bus Company, has had a host of unrelated services effectively all in the hands of different operators.

The commissioners question whether the council is properly fulfilling its job of co-ordinating local transport. They decided to accept all the proposals for the reorganisation of services run by the Oxford South Midlands Bus Company and to reject those submitted by private firms.

The commissioners say in a report that the council's policy of extended school contracts, under which it offers subsidies to operators as an incentive to run school services cheaply in rural areas, has led to potential subsidies of up to £234,000 for private operators.

Both management and unions in these large nationalised bus operating companies, and indeed the Government itself, would do well to ponder the implications of the massive public support of small private operators in rural areas which has been revealed in the course of this inquiry, the report says.

The commissioners say the school contracts cause subsidies intended for main bus routes to be spent on providing school buses, a charge that

should be part of the education budget. They maintain that the practice might have Oxfordshire without an integrated bus network, but with a host of unrelated services effectively all in the hands of different operators.

"The objective of the existing legislation would have been defeated and the county would have returned to a concept of passenger transport by road, considered to have been obsolete since 1921."

The long-term planning of buses on that basis would be impossible and it was therefore understandable that the public company felt unable to accept subsidy on the basis of extended school contracts, the report adds.

"The drastic changes of transport policy adopted by Oxfordshire County Council between 1974 and 1976 appear to have been carried through with little or no regard for the impact of these policies on the operation of the company."

Brigadier Roger Stace, chairman of the county council's bus service, was writing the party until last week said yes, I hope "I should be surprised if there is any change in the country's policy."

"There is no reluctance to pay subsidies to any operator who does not demand them; bulk subsidies I think that is this case the law is as it is."

## Store's 'five-shilling' lunch attracts 300 customers

By Penney Symon

In the midst of the profit-making activities connected with the Queen's silver jubilee and its exploitation by the souvenir industry, an event at Guildford, Surrey, yesterday stood out like a ray of sunshine.

Three hundred people sat down to a three-course lunch in the restaurant of the Army and Navy Stores and it cost them only 25p each.

The store decided on the "five-shilling" lunch as a jubilee gesture, rather than to make a profit. An advertisement was placed in a local newspaper inviting people to look back 25 years and consume soup or fruit juice, roast beef and two vegetables, roll and butter, apple tart and cream and coffee for the special price.

The restaurant was fully booked by 9.30 on the morning

that the advertisement appeared.

Yesterday with the restaurant decorated with jubilee flags and the sound of military music echoing round the walls, the customers, accommodated in three sittings, munched their way happily through a meal that would normally cost between £1.50 and £1.75.

The elderly women said the special price had made it possible for them to go out to lunch. Parents said that they hoped their children would remember the nostalgic trip into the past. One customer, Mrs Emily Hearhorn, aged 88, was treated to lunch by the restaurant staff.

Mr Robin Lee, the store's general manager, said he had subsidised the restaurant with £250 to cover the loss. "But it is fun for our customers, and something that I would like to be able to do much more often", he said.

## Private water companies and regional authorities are fighting for survival

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

Members of the Commons select committee on the nationalised industries began a three-day visit to the North of England next Monday to examine the operation of the British Waterways Board.

The visit comes only about a month before the expected publication of a White Paper on the further reorganisation of the water industry, which is likely to recommend that the board should be merged in a new national water authority.

Responsibility for the future of the waterways, however, is only one of several controversial issues. Since publication of the Government's consultative document in March last year dispute has been expressed in several quarters at the proposal for a strong central body to assume some of the powers of regional authorities, and the projected takeover of the remaining 28 private water companies.

One important but less provocative suggestion in the consultative document, namely the equalisation of water charges over the country as a whole, has already been given legislative form in a Bill now before the House of Lords. But although the Government has allowed greater time for debate on the rest of the document, it does not appear to have had any second thoughts.

The need for a central body to coordinate planning and investment and to oversee water supplies on a national basis was strongly urged during last summer's drought. Now that the threat of shortages has for the time being disappeared, the regional authorities are in a better position to fight for their continued autonomy.

Needless to say, the private companies, which still supply 99 per cent of the total area of England and Wales with a population of 12,500,000 are fighting for survival. They point out that as they are statutory undertakings, their financial returns are strictly controlled and that their efficiency is widely acknowledged. They argue that nationalisation would increase the burden on public expenditure and damage the interests of consumers.

Much may depend upon the attitude of Liberal MPs. Mr Michael McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for Newbury, who has taken up the companies' case in the Commons, is confident that the Liberals will not support any form of nationalisation.

The Government continues

to insist that the companies' continued existence is anachronism. In the consultative document it was said that the Labour Party maintained that the present arrangement was wrong in principle and anomalous in practice.

Fragmentation of responsibility is also the main reason why the Government favours some reorganisation of the waterways administration. At present the waterways board is responsible for about two thousand miles of canals and about half are navigable; a further 500 miles of navigable rivers, including the non-tidal Thames, are controlled by regional water authorities; and another 500 miles come under a variety of bodies, including local authorities and charitable trusts.

The Government believes there is a strong case for bringing all of them under a new navigation authority which would issue single licences to operators and draw up standardised charges. Since many of the canals and rivers also form an integral part of the water supply, it would be in everyone's interest to combine responsibility for both functions.

Waterway enthusiasts disagree. They fear that amalgamation would be pushed into the background and that the board's disappearance would remove any last hope of reviving the commercial use of the waterways.

## The digestive biscuit faces a new threat to its name

By Hugh Clayton

Britain's biscuit makers, who were unscathed by EEC Commission attacks on such traditional names as "cream cracker" face a home-produced threat to their nomenclature.

A government-appointed group of scientists, the Food Standards Committee, is to study the term "digestive biscuit", which has been used since the reign of Queen Victoria. The committee is to decide whether the term should be banned on the ground that it implies that the biscuit eats itself.

A call by the standards committee for a ban was rejected by ministers in 1966. Its report, *Claims and Misleading Des-*

*criptions*, said then that "the word 'digestive' denotes self-digestibility".

Professor Alan Ward, chairman of the committee, then and now, said yesterday that the question was being examined again under a review of food labels.

Lord Montrose, a director of the Cereals and Biscuit Alliance, said: "Digestive" came up as one of many names for a type of biscuit in the last century. It is a very good name. Although the biscuit does not improve digestion, it does help easily if you have weak teeth."

Leading article, page 19

## Dentist 'rolled on floor' with girl of 16

A dentist told a girl of 16, a former patient of his, that he had been rolling on the floor with her. The girl home and gave her father the disciplinary committee of the General Dental Council was told yesterday.

Dr Sergeant David Crosby and Mr Ivor Rosenberg, the dentist, also rolled around on the floor with the girl, whom he had invited to train as his nurse. They then wrestled to prove that she had the strength to handle patients coming out of anaesthesia, he said.

Sergeant Crosby told the committee that Mr Rosenberg invited the girl to spend the

weekend at Blackpool.

Mr Paul Hognam, for the committee, said that after the incident Mr Rosenberg drove the girl home and gave her £5. He asked her not to say anything to anyone, but she told a friend's mother and the police were informed.

Mr Adrian Whifford, for Mr Rosenberg, produced a petition signed by 500 patients, and said the incidents had been out of character.

Mr Rosenberg, of Castle Hill Road, Prestwich, Greater Manchester, told the committee that his activities with the girl were horseplay.

## Satellites may aid sea pollution study

By John Charles

A research team at Loughborough University is developing techniques that may enable pollution in the North Sea to be monitored by using photographs taken from satellites.

The study is aimed at developing ways of identifying oil and other surface and coastal pollution to replace the present costly and slow methods of taking measurements from ships.

During their researches the scientists will monitor surface pollution over large areas of the North Sea and Irish Sea.

The programme, which is supported by a £27,000 grant from the Department of Industry, is being carried out by Dr Gilbert Fielder, reader in the environmental and planetary use of space sciences, and Dr Duncan Telfer, research associate.

Dr Fielder said yesterday: "Oil pollution around our shores is increasing. The huge slick caused by the Brava blowout has brought the question of serious pollution to our attention once again. The object of our research is to find a quick and efficient method of scanning large areas of the sea's surface so that pollution can be identified and dealt with."

The study will develop techniques to analyse infrared satellite pictures so that small variations in temperature on the sea's surface can be identified and estimated.

## BANCO DO BRASIL OPENS ITS SECOND BRANCH IN PARIS.



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**BANCO DO BRASIL**

## WEST EUROPE

**Communists' attempt to put a price tag on cost of left's programme is boon to Government**

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, May 11.—The Communists' Party's resolution of September to put a price tag on the cost to the nation and the taxpayer of the implementation of the left's common programme published over a whole page in the party newspaper "Humanité" yesterday, is both an unexpected boon to the Government majority and a serious embarrassment to the Socialists.

It is not by accident that they passed this bomb into the political arena on the eve of the much publicized television debate between M. Barre, the Prime Minister, and H. Francois Mitterrand, which has had a killing comparable to the historic Jours during the presidential election campaign three years ago between the Socialist leader and M. Giscard d'Estaing.

As on that previous occasion the Communists feel the Socialists are monopolizing the lime-light a little too obviously, and that they are being left in the shade. The costing of the common programme will clearly help in restoring the balance between themselves and the socialists.

The manoeuvre is as insidious as some commentators in a jingle in wishful thinking. They even jump to the conclusion that the days of the Union of the Left are numbered and in the next 10 months invasions will come to the rescue of a sorely pressed Government majority.

This is hardly likely, for the whole strategy of the Communists in recent months has been to put their heads down and avoid anything which might prejudice the chances of the left coming to power.

What hurts the Socialists just as surely damages them, unless they feel that the wind of change is blowing strongly in favour of the left at present that they can afford to take them down a peg, and ensure that they are more favourably placed when the parliamentary elections come.

In fact, the Communists have tried to kill two birds with one stone: to improve their standing in the eyes of the working-class as the most efficient defenders of their interests; and to impress public opinion with paradoxical though it may seem in the light of the figures their sense of responsibility. There is a reply to the charge frequently levelled against them in the past that they always make promises without counting the cost.

Now they propose to show that the social and other benefits of the common programme would bring us perfectly assembled in financial terms. Much of course is the price of giving a Marxist-type economic structure and teaching formidable inflationary processes.

It will be child's play for M. Barre to demolish this excuse of the Communists' anti-cost accounting, hence the embarrassment of the Socialists, who have not commented on the exercise officially.

The total bill for the implementation of this Communist

version of the common programme of the left over three years would be in the region of 400,000 francs (£50,000) or more than the present budget.

The total wage bill would increase by some 50 per cent, while industrial firms, whose prices will be blocked and taxes increased steeply, would be asked to raise wages and provide an additional 1,240,000 jobs between now and 1982.

It is more than questionable, as *Le Monde* points out, whether this can be achieved with an annual rate of growth of 6 per cent a year only, though this is double the 1977 estimate for France.

The United States is very interested, for strategic reasons, in Spain eventually joining Nato. But Spain will not make any application to join either Nato or the European Community until some time after the general elections in June.

The extreme left-wing organisation FRAP (Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Front), founded by the Communist Party's figures, were "completely incomprehensible".

In recent weeks the Socialists themselves have tried to work on the cost of the common programme and came up with the figure of about 50,000 francs, financed partly by loans partly by new taxation.

With key talks between the left-wing parties on the updating of the common programme about to start next week, the Communists have obviously indulged in a calculated raising of the stakes.

Greece orders farm census to ease entry into EEC

From Mario Modiano

Athens, May 11.—The Government has ordered an urgent census of the country's farm population in the hope that it will prove Greece's diminishing dependence on agriculture and ease entry into the European Community.

Those who oppose the enlargement of the EEC argue that the admission of a predominantly agricultural country, such as Greece, would impose heavy financial burdens and institutional strains.

Their argument relies on official Greek statistics. The 1971 census for instance gave a farm population of 35.2 per cent of the total—3,081,731 Greeks living in villages of less than 2,000 inhabitants out of a national population of 8,758,641.

According to the same census, 1,312,600 Greeks were employed in agriculture, or 40.6 per cent of the working population of 3,253,596.

Inaccuracies were detected in the 1971 census results within the year in the course of the application of some agricultural programmes.

In one of them, Ministry of Agriculture officials found that only one out of four persons registered in 1971 as farmers were actually land workers.

EEC proposal would limit killing of birds

By a Staff Reporter

The indiscriminate killing of estimated 200 million birds in Italy each year could soon end. British MPs were told yesterday. The hunting of migratory species in Italy, a popular pastime, is threatening the survival of some birds. The killing of birds has attracted particular concern among conservationists within the EEC.

A European Commission rule directive providing general protection for all species of wild bird found in member states is expected to be approved by the Council of Ministers later this year. Even restrictions are placed on taking and killing, and founders could be brought before the European Court.

A subcommittee of the EEC Committee on European legislation was told yesterday that Britain is likely to face similar problems than other member states in implementing the draft directive, though some adjustments would have to be made to United Kingdom legislation if it is not amended.

Mr. Graham Rutter, an assistant secretary of the planning, sport and countryside directorate of the Department of the Environment, told the subcommittee that the taking of birds for falconry and airfield games was not clearly permitted under the directive.

Herald Tribune of Zurich

Zurich, May 11.—The English-language daily newspaper *International Herald Tribune* will be printed in Zurich as well as in Paris and London, from the autumn, it was announced today.

A contract has been signed with the publication of between 1,000 and 7,000 copies a day for distribution in Switzerland, southern Germany, Austria, Italy and parts of the Balkans, Africa and East Asia. The newspaper is edited in Paris—Agence France-Presse.

Jill kills yet

Bologna, May 11.—A 17-year-old girl, who is deaf and dumb, has seriously injured a family at Bologna, near Bologna, was shot dead by police.

**Vance talks in Madrid to focus on Nato**

From William Chislett

Madrid, May 11

Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, who arrived in Madrid this evening to preside over the first meeting of the Spanish-American committee set up after the treaty of friendship and cooperation was signed last year between the two countries.

He will inform the Spanish Government of what was discussed at the Nato summit meeting in London this weekend. The United States wishes to strengthen the Nato organization; and Mr Vance's visit to Madrid is seen in this context.

The United States is very interested, for strategic reasons, in Spain eventually joining Nato. But Spain will not make any application to join either Nato or the European Community until some time after the general elections in June.

The extreme left-wing organization FRAP (Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Front), founded by the Communist Party's figures, were "completely incomprehensible".

In recent weeks the Socialists themselves have tried to work on the cost of the common programme and came up with the figure of about 50,000 francs, financed partly by loans partly by new taxation.

With key talks between the left-wing parties on the updating of the common programme about to start next week, the Communists have obviously indulged in a calculated raising of the stakes.

The rest were either absent or did other work. The discrepancies were even more striking in mountain villages, mainly because of emigration.

Professor Adam Papelias, governor of the state-owned Agricultural Bank, which finances Greek farmers, was the first to notice these differences. He asked the 186 branch offices of his bank to check the cards of all registered farmers. These were found to be inactive to the extent of 50 to 75 per cent in many areas.

Mr. Papelias said: "I estimate that the agricultural labour force in Greece is roughly between 18 and 22 per cent of the total labour force—not 35 per cent, the official figure used in our dealings with the Community."

Of course, this is still a far cry from the EEC figure of 3 per cent, but it is lower than Ireland's, and close to Italy's 16.6 per cent.

Mr. Dimitris Rouvas, the Minister of Agriculture, who attended the news conference, said that, if the new count indeed showed a smaller farm population, this would drastically modify the basic facts about Greek agriculture, which EEC experts have found inadequate for easy harmonization.

School fighting Mafia mentality closed by debts

Rome, May 11.—Signor Danilo Dolci, 70, a former 25 years a斗者 against poverty, racism and the Mafia, has decided to start his revolutionary new school in Sicily because of debts his organization announced today.

The school, built in the heart of the island's Mafia country with funds raised from supporters around the world, was an attempt to create a generation of children without the traditional mentality that breeds the Mafia.

Large sums of money promised for the school had not materialized and massive debts had accumulated. The teachers and other staff had not been paid for eight months, the announcement said, but it was hoped that ways would be found to overcome the financial problem.

Signor Dolci, aged 53, is in Sweden at the moment on a fund-raising visit, an aide said.

The school, which has attracted the interest of education specialists from many countries, was started about three years ago on a hillside overlooking Partinico, in western Sicily. It has about 100 children and 18 staff.

Lack of money has stopped work on facilities required for Education-Military recognition.

The lack of this official recognition has in turn created a mass of other bureaucratic problems, the aide said.

Reuters

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**No 1 across the Atlantic**  
**TWA****Brussels rejects changes in fishing policy and takes Ireland to court over ban**From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, May 11

Britain's hopes of getting the EEC to approve wide coastal belts reserved exclusively for local fishermen were dealt a new blow here today when the European Commission decided against any significant modification of the proposals for revision of the common fisheries policy first unveiled last autumn.

The total wage bill would increase by some 50 per cent, while industrial firms, whose prices will be blocked and taxes increased steeply, would be asked to raise wages and provide an additional 1,240,000 jobs between now and 1982.

It is more than questionable, as *Le Monde* points out, whether this can be achieved with an annual rate of growth of 6 per cent a year only, though this is double the 1977 estimate for France.

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## OVERSEAS

## Churches to pressure British firms after report on black miners

By Desmond Quigley

British companies with investments in South Africa are likely to face increased pressure from church organizations as a result of a report, given exclusively in *The Times* yesterday, on the conditions of blacks working in South African gold mine.

The report, prepared by the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, the country's largest mining finance house, drew a vivid picture of the degradation, humiliation, corruption and near institutionalized homosexuality suffered by black miners.

Mr Patrick Stuart, executive secretary of Christian Concern for Southern Africa, said yesterday that his organization "will see that this article is drawn to the attention of its sponsoring church bodies, and that the churches will increase the pressure on companies with investments in South Africa, particularly in respect to the migrant labour system".

Mr Stuart, who requested the corporation for a copy of the report, said there was a growing feeling that British companies should be pressured into at least halting all further investment in South Africa.

"We find it encouraging

that the blacks do not hate the migratory labour system and that they cannot hate it because they come back to the mines year after year, but that picture contrasts strongly with the article in *The Times*."

Reference to the report is made in the annual statement released today of Mr Harry Oppenheimer, the chairman of Anglo American, who writes: "As a result we have taken a fresh look at all our administrative and induction procedures, and have improved or dispensed so far as possible with those that are a source of irritation or dissatisfaction."

"One of the encouraging features to emerge from the research was the pride that many black mineworkers take in their work. We are very conscious of the need to respond to this pride through career advancement and proper representation."

In his statement, Mr Oppenheimer also touches on the political, social and economic problems confronting South Africa.

"We must face the fact," he states, "that the growth of the economy at a rate sufficient to eliminate unemployment and provide rising standards of living for our rapidly growing population will be difficult or even impossible unless we can so order affairs that investors abroad recover confidence in our social and political stability and are willing to participate on a substantial scale in our economic development."

"There are assurances, for

example, that the blacks do not hate the migratory labour system and that they cannot hate it because they come back to the mines year after year, but that picture contrasts strongly with the article in *The Times*."

None of them, least of all Mr Jay himself, would have suspected that he might take over Britain's most important diplomatic post. Yesterday evening, sitting in shirt-sleeves at his desk in a corner of *The Times* Business News, Her Majesty's future Ambassador in Washington still looked slightly surprised by it all.

"It is an awesome and exciting challenge," he said. "My wife and I are now dedicated to doing a good job."

"I know this has been a very personal decision of the Foreign Secretary, and indeed otherwise we would have wondered whether I could or should do it." But I feel his confidence and sense of purpose are a marvellous inspiration to any one who is going to represent Britain abroad."

It is a fact that Mr Jay has known Dr Gwyn since the latter became an MP in 1966, and that they are good friends. It is also a fact that Mr Jay is as ardent a friend of the United States as he is sceptical about

Europeanism".

Britain and the United States are the two countries that I really love most in the world," he said yesterday, "and I can think of nothing I would rather do, or be more honoured to be asked to do, than to represent one in the other."

Business News, page 28

## Man in the news: journalist into diplomat US post for 'cleverest young man'

By Roger Berthoud

He first visited the United States in 1966 on a Ford Foundation grant, travelling from North to South and East to West. He paid frequent visits there for *The Times* during the next two years, and worked in Washington as "economics editor in exile" from January to December, 1968.

Last summer he sailed his boat there and back for a holiday in Maine. Margaret, his wife, has specialized in American stories as a television journalist, and between them they have many American friends.

It is not partisan to say that Mr Jay is recognized as one of the outstanding figures of his generation. In 1974 *Time* magazine listed 150 future leaders of the world. Among the six allotted to Britain, he was the youngest, apart from Prince Charles, and the other ones are not MP. *The Sunday Times* last year entitled a profile of him "The cleverest young man in Britain".

The record of success has been remorseless: a scholar at Winchester, first class honours in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Christ Church, Oxford, despite being President of the Union; six and a half years as a notoriously brilliant man who has been occasionally to carry self-confidence to the point of arrogance, as he extends his considerable length in an armchair, puts his feet on one of his cigarillos. But that desire is likely to vanish in the consciousness of his daunting new job.

The assets he takes to Washington are indisputable: intellectual brilliance, great charm, a friendly, outward-going nature, a profound grasp of economic subjects, a wide range of human experience, and a knowledge of how bureaucracies work, gleaned in those years at the Treasury.

It would be surprising if President Carter, who saw him during his visit to London, as did Mr Vance, the Secretary of State, is not delighted at the appointment.

trivialize serious issues; while the series of Jay interviews has shown his deep love of philosophy as well as of politics and economics.

Even marriage has conspired to burnish the glittering image. It was perfectly natural that the son of a brilliant if somewhat angular Labour cabinet minister, Mr Douglas Jay, and of one of the best of Labour's GLC councillors, Peggy Jay, should marry the daughter of another, less intellectually brilliant cabinet minister with, however, perhaps the most sensitive political antennae in Britain, Mr James Callaghan.

Margaret Jay, nee Callaghan, has remained her forceful and lovely self, acting sometimes with aplomb as hostess at Downing Street receptions, and with an air of naturalness.

If Peter Jay has a fault, it has been occasionally to carry self-confidence to the point of arrogance, as he extends his considerable length in an armchair, puts his feet on one of his cigarillos. But that desire is likely to vanish in the consciousness of his daunting new job.

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## OVERSEAS

**Thai Army finds it can contain insurgents without American help**

From Peter Hazebeek  
Bangkok, May 11

After living alongside its communist neighbours in Indochina for the past two years Thailand is no longer obsessed with the "domino" theory. This new mood of confidence has come with the discovery that the country's problem of insurgency is no worse, or better, than it was two years ago.

The Thai Army estimates that some 8,000 guerrillas, members of the Communist Party of Thailand, are operating in jungles and mountains in the north, near the border of Laos, and in confined southern regions above the border of Malaysia.

Although it is believed that as many as 1,000 rebels have been trained in Laos and equipped with automatic rifles, eight mortars and a few rocket-roped grenades the Communist Party has made no significant advances since last September and known their route east again.

The party has split into four main groups and their operations are confined to isolated tracks on police stations, government offices and other soft targets in more remote mountain areas.

At present an estimated 2,000 rebels, who are trying to win over isolated hill people in the northern provinces below the order of Laos, have been contained in the region. In recent months the rebels have made a number of hit and run attacks on road-building operations in an apparent attempt to hamper the planes of laying down communication routes in the inaccessible mountains.

The biggest group, an estimated 3,500 men, are operating in the north-east provinces, west of Laos and the Mekong river. Western diplomats believe real danger lies in this area where guerrillas are capable of acquiring equipment from both Laos and Cambodia in the south.

Another group of 400 rebels are entrenched in deep camps in the centre of Thailand and the ghost of the "domino" theory appears to be fading.

**S Africa allows Young visit**

Washington, May 11. The South African Government has approved a visit by Mr Andrew Young, the controversial United States Representative at the United Nations, but not on the date he had originally planned, the State Department said.

Mr Young will travel to South Africa on May 21, not May 19, as he originally intended. Reuters.

**Minister insulted by women in Pakistan**

From Richard Wigg  
Lahore, May 11

Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, Attorney General in Mr Bhutto's Government, was spat at and insulted by pro-opposition protesters and women today when he appeared outside the Punjab High Court, where he defended the Pakistan Government's use of the Army to uphold law and order.

The High Court is hearing a petition brought by a veteran opponent of the Prime Minister challenging the constitutionality of martial law, now imposed on the capital of the volatile Punjab province.

The women outside the court, led by Begum Atifa Mamoor, Secretary-General of the women's section of the opposition Pakistan National Alliance, had turned out for the first time to take the lead in defying martial-law provisions against any public assembly during Lahore's early morning break in the curfew.

Inside the court, the Attorney General immediately demanded a suspension of the hearings after lodging his complaint, and this led to acrimonious exchanges between him and lawyers representing the petitioner.

The bench of five judges, led by Mr Aslam Riaz Russani, the Chief Justice, struggled in vain to maintain what they called "the decorum" of the court while counsel, who were virtually all opposition political leaders, exchanged insults with Mr Bhutto's minister.

After the scene outside the court the women marched for more than an hour through an area of the city and to the Lahori Gate, now the rendezvous point after Friday's killing by troops of three opposition demonstrators.

The women carried banners saying "Down with murderers Bhutto" and "Generals save the nation from killer Bhutto". They prayed on the site of one of the killings.

Like yesterday, the Army was almost completely absent and order duties having been taken over by the police.

Islamabad, May 11. The National Assembly has passed a bill banning intoxicating liquor.

The bill provides for penalties of up to two years in prison and fines of up to £588.

It applies only to Muslims and not to foreign diplomats in Pakistan.

Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister, announced last month that the Government would prohibit home gambling and night clubs to bring an Islamic order to Pakistan. The gambling law is to be introduced soon.

Reuters.

**Hopeful start to Salt talks**

Geneva, May 11. The strategic arms limitation talks resumed today with a two-hour meeting between the chief American and Soviet delegations in a more hopeful climate.

One reason for the better atmosphere is a Soviet compromise proposal floated last week for a 10 per cent cut in the missile and bomber forces calling for a Vladivostok.

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T/L

## OVERSEAS

# Soviet Establishment up in arms over jailing of gamekeeper as armed poachers scoff at law

By Gabriel Rodnay

As gun battles between heavily armed poachers and gamekeepers in the Soviet Union claim more and more lives, the trial and conviction of Yevgeny Andrianov, a Government game inspector, on man-slaughter charges has become a cause célèbre arousing unexpected passions throughout the country.

He was sentenced in Alma Ata, Kazakhstan, to eight years' imprisonment after the fatal shooting of an armed poacher in the course of arresting him. Mr Andrianov maintained throughout his trial that the fatal shot was not fired by him but by an accomplice of the poacher who was trying to protect his associate but missed. His defence was simply ignored by the court.

For once, it is not the dissident community that is claiming that the judges were biased, the evidence rigged and the sentence a grave miscarriage of justice. The damning evidence against the judicial system comes from outraged sections of the Establishment.

Two local Communist Party newspapers, *Leningradskaya Sloboda* and *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda*, have led the campaign to clear Mr Andrianov's name.

Eight scientists with affiliation in the environmental lobby have written an open letter alleging "not only mistakes but deliberate falsification of

evidence in the pre-trial investigation".

The Establishment writer Maksim Zverev has stated in a letter to the Moscow *Literary Gazette* that the two judges and the prosecutor in the Andrianov case "had already been sentenced for crude violations of socialist legislation—a euphemism for the trial results—the of the Stalin period—"he had learnt nothing from their punishment".

Two law professors and another legal expert have written to the Alma Ata district court, where Mr Andrianov's trial had taken place, asserting that "in our opinion, both the investigation and the judges came to one-sided conclusions, literally excluding all the evidence which did not fit into their version of events. We demand the restoration of legality in the court."

This extraordinary public campaign against a miscarriage of justice can, in part, be explained by the seemingly apolitical nature of the Andrianov case. Another factor is the growing influence of the environmental lobby which is enraged by the depredations of poachers.

Poaching has become the greatest scourge of the Soviet countryside. Poachers, armed with automatic weapons are active in winter and in summer, weekdays and Sundays, day and night. They laugh at

suggestions of closed seasons.

Poachers, who have turned illegal fishing into a lucrative business in the sturgeon-rich middle-reaches of the Volga, are known to be employing "private guards" from the collective farms to protect them from fishery inspectors.

"Poaching on the Volga has

become open banditry," Iveria complained not long ago.

In Kazakhstan, where Mr Andrianov was employed, four senior game inspectors have been shot dead, and scores seriously injured this year alone. The number of militiamen killed or injured in gun battles with poachers runs into double figures.

Mr Andrianov himself, according to the president of the Kazakhstan Game Hunters' Federations, had been a model gamekeeper and in the past 15 years had instituted proceedings against 500 poachers.

Small wonder, then, that in a country where poaching is more a way of life than crime, he is represented "the other side".

With signs of sympathy for the poachers among the local police and bureaucracy, the natural enmity between poacher and gamekeeper is acquiring a class content, dividing the ecology-conscious establishment from the traditional peasant-troop. Meanwhile, Mr Andrianov, the zealous gamekeeper, remains in jail.



Senator Borgonovo: Pressed for ransom to be paid.

## Kidnapped minister shot dead

San Salvador, May 11.—El

Salvador's Foreign Minister, Señor Mauricio Borgonovo Pohl, kidnapped three weeks ago by urban guerrillas, was found shot dead near here today. Police said he had been shot in the head at least twice.

The Government had refused to bow to the guerrillas' demands for the release of 37 alleged political prisoners in exchange for his freedom.

Police sources speculated that Senator Borgonovo was killed to prevent him from identifying his captors, members of a small group calling itself the Popular Liberation Forces, who later admitted responsibility for his death. His body was found in the industrial town of Santa Tecla, seven miles west of San Salvador.

The murder climaxed a wave of political violence in El Salvador, the smallest and most densely populated of the Central American states on May 8, eight died when police and troops clashed with a demonstration.

Two days after the minister was kidnapped from his home on April 19, his family received a letter from him saying he was alive and well. He asked them to try to persuade the Government to accept the guerrillas' deal and that if this was done "they will fulfil their part of the bargain and free me."

But President Arturo Molina refused to negotiate with the guerrillas because he said it would lead to the collapse of law and order.

Señor Borgonovo had been Foreign Minister since 1972, when Colonel Molina was first elected President. Elections two months ago confirmed the ruling party in power—Reuter.

### Car runs on hydrogen

Moscow, May 11.—Scientists at the Leningrad polytechnic have built a small car that runs on hydrogen, Tass reported today. It can carry four people at 60 mph.

### 1,500 police dismissed

Manila, May 11.—More than 1,500 policemen in the Philippines have been dismissed this year for abuse of authority, chance and other misbehaviour. Major-General Fidel ... head of the police, said.

## Korean expatriots prove eager targets for Seoul

From Richard Hughes

South Korea intends to expand its highly rewarding programme of subsidizing visits by expatriate Koreans of North and South—who have been resident in Japan since the Pacific war.

More than 600,000 Koreans—mainly former labour conscripts who were recruited from their homes with their families during the war—comprise the largest foreign minority group in Japan. By combining propaganda with partial benefits, such as free education in indoctrination schools, North Korea has managed to enrol many of them in a pro-North Korean residents' federation called Chochongyon.

In September, 1975, South Korea suddenly selected groups of expatriates to make travel-free visits to the homeland. Not surprisingly, the response was immediate. Already 11,000 expatriates have visited South Korea since late 1975 for the lunar new year and family tomb-visiting ceremonies.

There have been emotional family reunions, tours of villages and holiday resorts as well as visits to the new industrial undertakings, national dances and public receptions. Speeches have shrewdly

emphasized national unification rather than ideological differences.

The result—again not surprisingly—has been to split the Chochongyon structure in Japan. A breakaway group, Chominion, has been formed by those visitors who are unwilling to switch to the pro-South Korean group in Japan.

Fearing reprisals against relatives in North Korea if they openly became anti-communist, the leader of Chochongyon has been dismissed and recalled to Pyongyang, and his alarmed successor and committee, who live in relative luxury in Japan, have launched a programme of systematic threats and even physical violence against Koreans who accept homeland invitations.

The semi-official organization which organizes the visits—the Unification Promotion Association—is appealing for funds. Significantly, the drive is headed by the 700,000 North Korean refugees who have settled in the South and who, in a recent two week campaign, raised three million won (£3,600). In Japan, the Saikai chapter of Mitadan collected nearly 2,500,000 yen (£4,800) for the family reunions during this year's lunar new year celebration.

## Moscow stops smuggling of drugs by air

Moscow, May 11.—Moscow is no longer a transit point for drug smugglers on their way from Asia to West Europe, the newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya* said today.

The report follows a drive at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport last year in which more than a dozen foreigners were arrested and charged with smuggling drugs. About 14 foreigners are serving terms in Soviet prisons for drug smuggling. They include four Britons and three Americans.

The smugglers bargained on the Moscow stopover being so short—for some flights it was no more than half an hour—that no search could be carried out but the customs officials at Sheremetyevo proved them wrong.

"As a result of this the flow of narcotics has now been halted," Reuter.

## Effects of space travel on women

From Michael Binion

Washington, Mar 11

Ten middle-aged women have just spent a month in California being whirled round in a centrifuge, putting their legs in a suction box and lying flat on their backs for days on end.

Their reactions to this rather unusual routine have been measured by a battery of instruments and the results will show whether ordinary men and women may one day be able to hop on to America's space shuttle and fly out to the Moon in an orbiting space laboratory.

The tests were carried out by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to see how the human body, with no prior training, stands up to prolonged weightlessness.

Young men and women have already shown that they can stand on all fours, even in the turn of the older group. Last month's tests were on women aged between 35 and 45.

"greyous" or thought they were going to faint, they could stop their whirling world and get off. Some of the lucky ones were allowed to wear gravity suits. After six of these "re-entry flights" the women climbed into a suction box which drew blood down into their legs.

Then they had to rest for six days. That was the worst part: no movement, no sitting up and no visitors while reading, eating and watching television flat on their backs. They even took showers horizontally while still in an oven.

All 10 survived. A few fainted but no one suffered any lasting damage. One woman paid \$3 (£2) after her flight and said they did it because it was the neatest they would ever come to going on a spaceship.

If they did not like the

tests, they had to rest for six days.

The close eye of medical supervisors who climbed on to the centrifuge wheel and were tilted back in their chairs. As they went round and round, faster and faster, they had to look up at lights above them and turn them on and off using a hand-held switch. The blood rushed to their heads, the lights lowered and the volunteers experienced the classic astronaut stress.

The appeal was dismissed with costs.

Solicitors: Anderson & Higgs, Newcastle upon Tyne; Collyer, Brown & Co for Mr D. E. Brown, Gateshead.

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## Law Report May 11 1977

# Linking mortgage interest to Swiss franc valid

Multiservice Bookbinding Ltd and Others v Marden  
Before Mr Justice Browne-Wilkenson

A domestic mortgage on business premises which provided that repayment of capital and interest should be indexed to the Swiss franc is not contrary to public policy. A clause providing for payment of "Swiss franc uplift" was not unfair or unconscionable; to avoid compliance with the terms of the mortgage it was not sufficient to show that it was not reasonable.

His Lordship set aside a previous judgment in proceedings by Multiservice Bookbinders, Islington, London, and Mr Eugene Louis Mara and his wife, its directors and principal shareholders, against Mr Stephen Marden, of Bendon Avenue, Finchley, in a redetermination action to strike out whatever was unreasonable in the original judgment.

The plaintiffs wished to buy larger premises for their business and needed £240,000 available.

When approached by the plaintiffs Mr John G. Wilmer, QC, and Mr Gavin Lightman for Mr Marden, HIS LORDSHIP said that Mr Marden had made a loan on mortgage to the plaintiffs in 1966. Its most striking feature was that whether if not so valid or enforceable ought to be enforced if so, to what extent.

Mr E. G. Nurse, QC, and Mr J. Leigh Mellor for the plaintiffs said that the terms of the mortgage were variable, the amount payable being linked to an index.

The amount, though expressed in pounds sterling, varied proportionately to the variation in the rate of exchange between the pound and the Swiss franc.

Mr Justice Browne-Wilkenson, who disagreed with the plaintiffs' contention that such a clause was not unlawful even in a domestic contract,

His Lordship could not accept

Mr Nurse's contention that Lord Denning's remarks forming a separate ground of decision binding on the court. There were words not of decision but of doubt.

His Lordship did not find that in 1977

any person could declare that an index-linked money obligation was contrary to public policy. There were several reasons:

Mr Justice Goff accepted

that Lord Denning's remarks

were not of decision but of

doubt.

Adopting that approach,

His Lordship did not think that a bargain could be unfair or unconscionable unless one party had imposed an objectionable term in a morally reprehensible manner.

His Lordship could not accept the "index-linking" position of

Mr Justice Goff.

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## SPORT

Cricket

# Greig is hoping for a compromise

By Richard Scroten

Tony Greig stressed that there was no intention to harm the present structure of Test cricket and tours when he made his first public statement yesterday about the cricket circus planned by the Australian newspaper and television magnate, Mr Packer. A compromise had to be reached between the English, Australian and other authorities or cricket could, perhaps, suffer but this was not what those involved wanted.

Greig spoke fluently at a press conference at the Hove ground for 90 minutes. In there were brief moments of arrogance and vanity present, too, but he was never less than frank. He claimed that his main objective was to improve the financial lot of the ordinary cricketer. He said there was a lot of money available in the English game from sponsors but it was not going into the pockets of the players.

One quote summarized Greig's attitude to the views of most of the other 34 leading players involved: "There is nothing in the world in my case I want to do more than to carry on playing for England. We do not want this to become a base. We want a better deal for cricketers the world over; we want cricketers to get the same rewards as those in tennis and golf. And the compensation of cricket will benefit because of the encouragement it will give for people to enter the game."

Greig brought in tennis and several times as he answered questions. "Any young man brilliant at golf, tennis and cricket today would be very silly at the moment if he opted to go into cricket." And he added: "I am sure his feelings were identical and those were still intense. Greig said: "The whole basis of all this is an ideal, but nobody is going to do it for peanuts. These guys involved are the best and have already given their lives to cricket."

Greig said that if he lost the captaincy of England through having signed the contract with Mr Packer he would have to be considered a necessary sacrifice. He was still available for MCC's winter tour of Pakistan and New Zealand. "The only way I'm not available for the tour is to captain England," he said. "The responsibility is entirely in the hands of the compromise between Lord's and Mr Packer."

There would, however, have to be some juggling of dates both for MCC's tour and the ones involving India to Australia and the



Tony Greig answering questions at Hove yesterday.

we have here is something based on a principle, the right of the public to see the game. What the authorities know all right, they could well have a different view of it all. Lord's and the others must sit round a table with him; I know no better way of sorting things out."

Greig said that so far Donald Carr, the TCCB secretary, and the Carrington brothers had refused to speak to Mr Packer on the telephone. Mr Packer had instructed Greig: "Keep telling them at Lord's that I am ready to talk at any time. England is only a place away."

Greig constantly reiterated his faith in Mr Packer, whom he was certain would not let the 35 players down. "The worst thing that could happen would be if the English authorities and the circus players would also spend five days intensively coaching promising young players in New South Wales. On his own position, Greig said that if his cricketing future had to be restricted to playing for Sussex, he would welcome the chance to put something back in the game for the county who had given him his first opportunities.

"When the authorities know all right, they could well have a different view of it all. Lord's and the others must sit round a table with him; I know no better way of sorting things out."

Greig said he had to be the top and older players who took on the cricket authorities head-on if this "super Test situation" was to be achieved. For that reason Randall, the young Nottinghamshire batsman, had been approached by Mr Packer, who had wanted him as he seemed ideal television material but Greig had persuaded the Australians to withdraw. "I am sure it would be unfair at this stage to Randall," Greig said.

On his own position, Greig said that if his cricketing future had to be restricted to playing for Sussex, he would welcome the chance to put something back in the game for the county who had given him his first opportunities.

## Idea that talks will solve problem is naive

By John Woodcock

Cricket Correspondent

Tony Greig has many sides to him. He is competitive and articulate, charming and fearless, mercenary and handsome. He is also extraordinarily naive if he thinks that he can play in Australia for the next two winters, as he did, without having himself to do, and at the same time retain the England captaincy.

From what he said yesterday the only thing that can stop him now from playing for Mr Packer is that he is "the televised Test" which Mr Packer hopes to stage come to London. But what does he mean by Australia next winter at the same time as MCC will be in Pakistan and then New Zealand. So, it seems, will Knot and Underwood, and also Snow.

That Snow should jump at the chance of a lucrative winter, now that his Test days are over, is understandable. But making everyone panic he can from cricket, I am not wholly surprised that Greig has acted as he has, though I have little doubt that if he does play for Mr Packer he will live to regret it. I can even understand

Knot being carried along by his captain. He has spoken for a year or two about wanting to give up Test cricket. But not Underwood, who is young and full of life. The morning whether he has allowed to be talked out of taking more Test wickets (of the kind that matter) than anyone has ever done before.

It is an astonishing situation when the England captain goes to the test of his best players (Knot and Underwood) on behalf of an Australian impresario buys their services, knowing that it will almost certainly drastically reduce, if not bring to an end, their appearances for England. He will be young and Underwood the same.

Greig calls "this moment in time" as an "astonishing situation when the England captain goes to the test of his best players (Knot and Underwood) on behalf of an Australian impresario buys their services, knowing that it will almost certainly drastically reduce, if not bring to an end, their appearances for England. He will be young and Underwood the same." Come back, Boycott, all is forgotten— "I could understand any Englishman feeling that at what Greig calls "this moment in time" all 35 players who have signed for Mr Packer are apparently "legally committed". How many of them regret that now, or soon will, is another matter. Not the South Africans. I am sure I but what about the Pakistanis? The young Australians whose future is at stake? In cases other than those of Knot, Underwood and Snow, Greig acted as Mr Packer's agent. He has done it to say, to improve the lot of the average cricketer. He has done it though it is hard to know just how he will manage that, other than by bringing it into people's consciousness, where it already is. Greig sees that, does the Test and County Cricket Board must sit down and come to some accommodation whereby players can appear for Mr Packer while at the same time being on tour with England is where the naivety comes in. "There is no

better way of sorting things out" says, which is precisely what he elected not to do with anyone other than Mr Packer before joining his attempted takeover.

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Expenses and Commission for the 23rd April, 1977 - 32.7%

## Steele defies Yorkshire: Boycott duck

45 overs, Inchmore taking four

Lord's.

Daniel, Middlesex's new fast bowler, took all three Kent wickets to fall in the 135 minutes of play that were possible. The West Indian trapped Johnson leg-below 10 after Selvey had had a fierce appeal rejected by Lever and D. T. Achter.

Selvey points (no date): Surveyor O. Upstone; C. Cook and P. B. Mighell.

SOMMERSIDE: 16 wkt/s, 6 overs, P. Gillard, S. Johnson, J. McLean, R. Evans, G. Courtney.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-19, 3-21, 4-22, 5-23, 6-24, 7-25, 8-26, 9-27, 10-28, 11-29, 12-30, 13-31, 14-32, 15-33, 16-34, 17-35, 18-36, 19-37, 20-38, 21-39, 22-40, 23-41, 24-42, 25-43, 26-44, 27-45, 28-46, 29-47, 30-48, 31-49, 32-50, 33-51, 34-52, 35-53, 36-54, 37-55, 38-56, 39-57, 40-58, 41-59, 42-60, 43-61, 44-62, 45-63, 46-64, 47-65, 48-66, 49-67, 50-68, 51-69, 52-70, 53-71, 54-72, 55-73, 56-74, 57-75, 58-76, 59-77, 60-78, 61-79, 62-80, 63-81, 64-82, 65-83, 66-84, 67-85, 68-86, 69-87, 70-88, 71-89, 72-90, 73-91, 74-92, 75-93, 76-94, 77-95, 78-96, 79-97, 80-98, 81-99, 82-100, 83-101, 84-102, 85-103, 86-104, 87-105, 88-106, 89-107, 90-108, 91-109, 92-110, 93-111, 94-112, 95-113, 96-114, 97-115, 98-116, 99-117, 100-118, 101-119, 102-120, 103-121, 104-122, 105-123, 106-124, 107-125, 108-126, 109-127, 110-128, 111-129, 112-130, 113-131, 114-132, 115-133, 116-134, 117-135, 118-136, 119-137, 120-138, 121-139, 122-140, 123-141, 124-142, 125-143, 126-144, 127-145, 128-146, 129-147, 130-148, 131-149, 132-150, 133-151, 134-152, 135-153, 136-154, 137-155, 138-156, 139-157, 140-158, 141-159, 142-160, 143-161, 144-162, 145-163, 146-164, 147-165, 148-166, 149-167, 150-168, 151-169, 152-170, 153-171, 154-172, 155-173, 156-174, 157-175, 158-176, 159-177, 160-178, 161-179, 162-180, 163-181, 164-182, 165-183, 166-184, 167-185, 168-186, 169-187, 170-188, 171-189, 172-190, 173-191, 174-192, 175-193, 176-194, 177-195, 178-196, 179-197, 180-198, 181-199, 182-200, 183-201, 184-202, 185-203, 186-204, 187-205, 188-206, 189-207, 190-208, 191-209, 192-210, 193-211, 194-212, 195-213, 196-214, 197-215, 198-216, 199-217, 200-218, 201-219, 202-220, 203-221, 204-222, 205-223, 206-224, 207-225, 208-226, 209-227, 210-228, 211-229, 212-230, 213-231, 214-232, 215-233, 216-234, 217-235, 218-236, 219-237, 220-238, 221-239, 222-240, 223-241, 224-242, 225-243, 226-244, 227-245, 228-246, 229-247, 230-248, 231-249, 232-250, 233-251, 234-252, 235-253, 236-254, 237-255, 238-256, 239-257, 240-258, 241-259, 242-260, 243-261, 244-262, 245-263, 246-264, 247-265, 248-266, 249-267, 250-268, 251-269, 252-270, 253-271, 254-272, 255-273, 256-274, 257-275, 258-276, 259-277, 260-278, 261-279, 262-280, 263-281, 264-282, 265-283, 266-284, 267-285, 268-286, 269-287, 270-288, 271-289, 272-290, 273-291, 274-292, 275-293, 276-294, 277-295, 278-296, 279-297, 280-298, 281-299, 282-300, 283-301, 284-302, 285-303, 286-304, 287-305, 288-306, 289-307, 290-308, 291-309, 292-310, 293-311, 294-312, 295-313, 296-314, 297-315, 298-316, 299-317, 300-318, 301-319, 302-320, 303-321, 304-322, 305-323, 306-324, 307-325, 308-326, 309-327, 310-328, 311-329, 312-330, 313-331, 314-332, 315-333, 316-334, 317-335, 318-336, 319-337, 320-338, 321-339, 322-340, 323-341, 324-342, 325-343, 326-344, 327-345, 328-346, 329-347, 330-348, 331-349, 332-350, 333-351, 334-352, 335-353, 336-354, 337-355, 338-356, 339-357, 340-358, 341-359, 342-360, 343-361, 344-362, 345-363, 346-364, 347-365, 348-366, 349-367, 350-368, 351-369, 352-370, 353-371, 354-372, 355-373, 356-374, 357-375, 358-376, 359-377, 360-378, 361-379, 362-380, 363-381, 364-382, 365-383, 366-384, 367-385, 368-386, 369-387, 370-388, 371-389, 372-390, 373-391, 374-392, 375-393, 376-394, 377-395, 378-396, 379-397, 380-398, 381-399, 382-400, 383-40

## SPORT

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## NEW BOOKS

## So quiet a life

J. R. R. Tolkien  
By Humphrey Carpenter  
(Allen & Unwin, £4.95)

The Tolkien Companion  
By J. E. A. Tyler  
(Picador, £1.50)

One afternoon in the early 1930s, the Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon at the University of Oxford was marking School Certificate examination papers in the study of his little house at Headington. Among the papers was a blank page on which he unthinkingly scribbled the words "In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit". He had better, he thought, find out what that sentence meant. Sixteen years later, *The Lord of the Rings* was published, and J. R. R. Tolkien was famous.

And that is the story of his life. That Mr Carpenter has been able to write so fascinating a biography of so quiet a life is astonishing; but it is true that there is a lot of music, interest and readable biographies of a literary figure for some time—and not only for hobbitomaniacs.

The central elements of Tolkien's life were fixed before he was out of his teens. His interest in languages was fostered by his mother, who died when he was eleven, leaving him an orphan; already "words took the place of music for him". A teacher interested him in Anglo-Saxon, and at the school debating society he spoke in that language as well as English, Latin, Greek and Gothic. Already he loved trees, and had invented his own private language, not only coining the words but investigating their derivation. Mr Carpenter conveys wonderfully well his passion for philology.

Tolkien met his wife-to-be, Edith, when he was 16 and she was 19. Forbidden even to write to her until he was 21, he eventually married her—but by that time was used to the exclusively male world of Oxford, and was to remain all his life devoted to the juvenile

organization of schoolboyish clubs and secret societies. Perhaps his chief friendship, though it had its ups and downs, was with C. S. Lewis, with whom he shared one of those tense, devotional, platonic affairs which so resembled schoolboy crushes. Mrs Tolkien felt, and was excluded from much of her husband's life.

Mr Carpenter fills his book with the intensity of Tolkien's intellectual life, showing us his subject in all his dark moods and childish humours, and detailing his meticulous passion for his work. It is, of course, to devotees of his writing that this aspect of the book will be most interesting. Some elements of *The Lord of the Rings* emerge very early. A Dr Gamgee of Birmingham appears, for instance, on page 21; on page 51 we find Tolkien buying, in Switzerland, a postcard of a painting of an old man by Madalenier, on which he later wrote: "Origin of Gondor". The publishing of the trilogy is also fascinating.

But there is more than this: there is the story of the long saga of *Silmarillion*, which predated the hobbit books, and will shortly be published. And in particular Mr Carpenter stresses the excitement with which Tolkien's work filled him, and his strong feeling that in it he was setting down a chronicle of actual events. When he had written some arcane verse in Elvish, he would "try to find out" what they meant—not "try to invent". His attitude to myth in general was extremely important, and not least in a little book as a Roman Catholic—a discussion of its meaning played a fascinating and important part in the conversion to Christianity of his friend Lewis. (The intensity of his own myth, by the way, is emphasized by the legend that nobody ever forgets a bobby) she learned, at five one of the hardest lessons. Not everyone can be trusted, nor even grown-ups or relations, and "in the wood of the world you are on your own".

Theatricals in the nursery fed a literary imagination. Angela, the eldest, took the girls' parts, and Daphne played both Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver with four-year-old Jeanne as Blind Pew. Books were the inspiration—in particular Marston Alaworth's *Old St. Paul's*, containing plague stricken teddy bears to be buried in flower beds buried plague pits.

Daphne was the "difficult" one—shy, unforgiving, the onset of menstruation explained inadequately by an embarrassed Mother (with whom she did not get on particularly well) was a misery to be kept secret. Characters in the books she read were more real and provided more comfort than life. At 13 she invented as alter ego, her first fictional character, Eric Avon, Captain of Cricket, in School House, Rugby.

At 14 her heart missed a beat at a smile from Cousin Geoffrey, aged 36, a practised charmer with a come-hither eye, already divorced. An instinct had been awakened and the instinctive knowledge that nobody must know". The facts of life, revealed to her when she was 18, came as a source of astonishment and disbelief. What an extraordinary thing for people to want to do!"

Fowey in Cornwall as a holiday home and Paris seen from a finishing school were important landmarks in her development. A devotion to the director of the finishing school opened many doors in the understanding of people and their motives, gaining a lifelong friend. The house at Fowey was bought from the profits her father made from Edgar Wallace's play *The Ringer*. As a holiday house it pleased them all, but to Daphne it was "the freedom to write, to work, to wander, freedom to climb hills, to pull a boat, to be alone".

From then on it was a battle to be at Fowey or in Paris, away from the boredom of London and the parental restrictions which seemed so unreasonable. "I hope when you come home you won't start that practice of going out again in the evenings, which was so worrying", wrote her mother to the 21-year-old ravishingly pretty Daphne. On the other hand, her mother had no objection to Daphne going on a cruise on a private yacht while people she hardly knew got married.

*The Long Spirit*, was written, the first book, the *Marie Louise*, a fishing lugger, was being built. (She got a rowing boat as a twenty-first birthday present). She had trespassed by getting into Menabilly, the house of secrets, beautiful and deserted, and had fallen in love with it. Later, from 1943 until 1967, she would live there, and immortalize it in *Rebecca* as Mandeville.

*Growing Pains* is a delightful book, full of amusing and charming stories, pinpointing the literary influences and the first stirrings of books to be written in it as one of the firmest characters in a 1970s world of political kidnapping, bomb planning, routine torture and children's gleeful stories of how Strontium 90 affects the unborn. "In the deepest dungeons of Angria and Zamorra", she protest, "we never imagined anything like that".

In the first part of this extraordinary book, she embodies a permanent spiritual agent—and not only to the narrator, Barnaby Shanes. It is all so gracefully written, with heart and humour, that the fine technique of unifying inner image and fantasy with outside reality is unobtrusive. Barnaby Shanes tells how his life is illuminated by his love for Emily Bronte.

Philippa Toomey

Books next week: on Monday, Jessica Mitford's autobiography, *A Fine Old Conflict*; Reviews on Thursday include Paul Barker on the National Front.

## Crime

The Glimpses of the Moon  
By Edmund Crispin  
(Gollancz, £4.25)

I have been waiting, with increasing impatience, for this since 1951 when Crispin's last novel *The Long Divorce* appeared. It has been promises, bobbing off with hilarious short stories, sights of Chapter One at literary exhibitions, old books reissued, anything. But here at last it is. And it fulfills every expectation, more even since it runs to a



Woman and Parrot, Bengal, Kalighat School, 1875, from *Indian Drawings and Painted Sketches, 16th through 19th Centuries*, by Stuart Cary Welch (Weatherhill/Phaidon, £9.95).

## Less than kin

## Kissing Cousins

An interpretation of British and American Culture, 1945 to 1975  
By Daniel Snowman  
(Maurice Temple Smith, £6.50)

"No dogs allowed" (US version); "We regret that in the interests of hygiene, dogs are not allowed" (British version).

Daniel Snowman has written a study of the Americans and the British in an era of great apparent change. Among his starting points is puzzlement at why such totally nations vary markedly even in subtle matters.

But are they? As he shrewdly says: "the difference between British and American society is partly a difference in whom you trust, and why you trust them."

He has bitten off a difficult tantalizing and occasionally禾nous subject. His aim is a complex one. Over the years, 1945-75, he is trying first, to pin down how British and American cultures have cross-pollinated each other. (Many other commentators, of course, would more readily see British culture as a shrinking violet divebombed by a honeycomb.) But he is also trying to assess how both cultures coped with the changes they have faced in these three decades. In his quest he is obliged, in fact, to dig well back into the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to find the roots of the present.

The scope may well regret Boggan; the approach is closer to McLuhan. He is more concerned with "style" than "content", more interested in the everyday than in the exceptional. "Most people most of the time", he writes, "were not . . . preoccupied with the great public issues of the day, but would spend their waking hours doing and thinking about, relatively mundane things:

eating, working, travelling to and from work, watching television, visiting friends and relatives . . ."

Over the years, Mr Snowman has assiduously collected oddments—menus, news items, quotations—that embody the two-way mirror of Anglo-American society. This magpie's nest is the imaginative heart of the book. The examples are often brilliant. Who else would link the rise in food and drink ads to popular literature's unprecedented obsession with oral sex? A culture of licking and sucking.

He is less successful when he gets less detailed. His more panoramic chapters draw rather too much on what is already familiar: Toqueville on America, for example, or Geoffrey Gorer on the English. Nor, to be frank, did I feel that the book quite got anywhere at the end. But I enjoyed the journey along the way, even when I disagreed.

Perhaps to his own disadvantage, he never pushes his argument too hard. Thus, he quotes Richard Hoggart on the (presumed) working-class temptation to live "in a constant present". Since all the world is assumed to be in one of incessant change in which the future automatically supersedes and is preferable to all in the past, the past becomes laughable and odd. To be "old-fashioned" is to be condemned.

But Hoggart was publishing those words as early as 1957, less than halfway through Daniel Snowman's 30-year "era of change". As Mr Snowman himself underlines, the changes since 1945 have perhaps not been as great as we sometimes like to think. Similarly, despite everything, America remains very American, and Britain very British.

Paul Barker

whose phantom is his saving companion after he tries to shoot himself; quarrel with his wife have left him in his wife and himself desperate, and he is depicted about his work as a writer which seems to him to have been mindfully measured, not reaching fully into the passionate centres of destruction and benevolence he knew as a youthful detainee in Ireland, in Germany, in France, and in private.

Emily says better things of him. Perhaps the measuring, at the time, was vital. His solicitude for her is equally discerning: "I looked on one whose imagination was a severed artery draining her life away into her fiction." At a clinic he asks to have her lungs X-rayed; he is receiving very relaxed therapy in what appears to be Rathfarnham near Belfast, overlapping with biographical memories as well as images of British Country, particularly from Emily's Goodall poems. Barnaby thinks he has found one of the Brontë notebooks, and it is wonderful if this prompts rereading of Emily's writing but Mr Stuart's novel on its own gives huge imaginative pleasure. Emily is guided among paroxysms, and two militant children later partly rescued by Barnaby who mediates in a siege. Insights into rebellion, many-sided righteous-

ness and his unguessing among politicians are incisive. But the scenes integrating Emily have, and understand, genius.

How many people are born combative, exhibiting belligerence even when it results only, usually, in inflicting damage? Considering that Hitler in *Kramer's War*, Derek Robinson produces several stimulating, queer shocks. Mr Robinson, who was on the Booker Prize shortlist in 1971, is nimble with diverse complex views in a skilfully readable narrative. About a third of his story is seen through the amazed eyes of a young, pliable, weirdly impulsive American, Earl Kramer, who lends on the side a brash, a boozing, a boisterous, and the islanders and occupying German troops account for the rest that happens.

During one long weekend in June 1944, immediately before D-Day, Kramer goes to raise Jersey, since 1940, where there 25,000 German troops have regarded themselves as the spearhead here of the Third Reich, only 90 miles from the English coast, and the island, bristling with Nazi fortifications like concrete hedgehog, no apparent resistance movement. Singlehandedly, Kramer starts a bit of sabotage. The Nazis order one in 10 islanders to be shot as reprisals. Up to

now, through Beachcomber, through Wodehouse, through a major strain of Dickens, through Sterne, to Urquhart's punch-and-reading of *Rabelais*, and oh yes, with Hamlet called *Hamlet*, Professor Fen in attendance.

## A valiant defence

Mary of Guise  
By Rosalind K. Marshall  
(Collins, £5.50)

There is a widely disseminated illusion that women exercised no influence on politics until a few enthusiasts gathered together in New York and ceremoniously turned their backs. It would be a pity to explode an entertaining fallacy, but one might usefully reflect, for instance, on the very considerable powers which sixteenth-century women rulers and regents brought to bear on their society. They included Mary Tudor, Elizabeth Tudor, Mary, Queen of Scots, Catherine de Medici, Mary of Guise, to say nothing of the highly educated wives and mistresses of popes and kings. The trouble is that too much has been paid to what is bitter and disappointed.

Like John Knox, who wrote about women and sex little or nothing in his treatise, *What Is It That Women Are*, she was a daughter of King Francis I, a widow of the Duke of Guise, and mother of Henry VIII. She contracted her second marriage to the Duke of Guise, and he became Regent of France. Her son, the Duke of Guise, was a soldier and a statesman, and he was a widower when he married Mary of Guise, who was widowed by the execution of her husband.

It is impossible here to enter

into the appealing tangle of internal and diplomatic affairs in

which Mary of Guise was now involved. She possessed a good deal of the equipment of the politician. She was strong-willed, resourceful, devious,

immensely energetic but, above

all, she was passionately

resolved to preserve the "solid alliance" against the common enemy, England. She became

in due course the unpopular

regent

of an unhappy

realm

and

her

sick

death

in 1559

in her

year.

Miss Marshall has made a valiant defence of Mary of Guise which helps to dispel the monstrous preconceptions of John Knox. But she protects her much. She contrasts her with Elizabeth I and her "real deception". Yet this preposterous chapters have shown Mary of Guise to be a widow in France, married to both France and England. And the author herself gives an account of how Mary signed her way into the regency by ousting the English regent. "Nor was she the forger in a case mentioned in this book.

Mary of Guise remains in

the Frenchwoman whom it

fortune brought to power in

Scotland in 1536, as a diplomatic pawn in Franco-Scottish relations, and was soon caught up in the squabbles between the nobles of the north. Her made worse by the notorious extravagances and marital indiscretions of her young husband. She bore him two sons and finally a daughter. When a week of her birth the king was dead. At 27 Mary of Guise was widowed for the second time. Her two Scottish sons were already dead. Left on her surviving French son would die in his boyhood. Only this weak-old daughter, already Queen of Scotland, survived. What chance had such a child at such a time in such a place?

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Joel Hurnfield

## Games of skill

## Total Poker

By David Spangler  
(Secker & Warburg, £3.90)

David Spangler, the blurb says, learns poker the usual way, at Cambridge University reading English under Dr Lewis. Whatever F. R. Lewis may think of that, I learnt poker always seemed to me the easiest way, in any army barracks on payday. Even so, *Total Poker* suggests that Mr Spangler learnt considerably better game than I did, and his patient guidance through the complexities of bluffing odds and the fine points of which cards to hold "em", "five card stud", etc., reminds me why I have hardly touched cards since leaving the army, meanwhile belatedly revealing to me some of the ways Private Zen Wilson was able to double his wages at the game every month.

As all winners do, Mr Spangler defends poker's reputation as a game of skill, arguing that luck works out the same for everyone. His conviction that once skill is acquired, winning is up to the player's attitude is backed up with colloquial summaries of psychologists' research and examples from games. Although this own education is clearly the result of a mispent adulthood, his close analysis of bluffing at what to watch for in other players should help aspiring sharks to improve their game.

While his chapter on odds, with tables showing the chances of getting particular hands in different games, is probably the most useful, the joy of the book lies in its single-minded application of the rules of poker to life in general; particularly, however, to American life. He traces the game from its beginnings in New Orleans to its appearance in the White House, suggesting that Richard Nixon's political career was founded on poker.

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Save the City: A Conservation Study of the City of London, edited by David Lloyd (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, £3). This exposes the weaknesses of the City Corporation's conservation strategy and the Square Mile's crying conservation needs. Maunton must be put in his place if the remaining treasures are to survive. This excellent volume shows how

Wadai tribesmen in 1910 at the age of 37.) A brilliant naturalist, he was an outstanding example of an Englishman of the *grande époque*, tough, (but never brutal), debonair, fearless; the type that Henry James called "opaque in intellect but indomitable in muscle". John Alexander has done his rather clouded memory ample justice.

The Disinheriting Party, by John Clute (Allison & Busby, £4.50). Set with clear vigour. An ageing young man is asked for help by shipping union leaders in Manhattan who want to ruin his shipping father. The tale then takes off into stylized violence and sex—one character is androgynous, and relationships are zanily primal.

What comes through most of me though, is John Clute's succinct talent, the affecting dread of age (it's a first novel, and the warnings against loneliness.

The Albatross Muff, by Barry Hanrahan (Chatto & Windus, £4.50). An old shepherd in the Chilterns Hills advises his apprentice to "learn to walk soft in the fold". He does, and their love for the details of sheepherding is so vivid, exactly recording farm language in the Chilterns, Scotland, the Highlands and Cornwall, that I feel I've completed my own apprenticeship in dry-walling, shearing, lambing. What else happens? There's a page when the younger shepherd goes to war (in 1944) and later studies "fair-book farming" in college. Breeding doesn't overtake breeding in this unusual novel.

Myrna Bloomberg

The Line, by Peter Higgs (Peter Davies, £3.50). Bizarre



PARLIAMENT, May 11, 1977

## Fresh joint enterprise on Rhodesia by Britain and United States

House of Commons

The establishment of a consultative group on Rhodesia headed by Mr J. A. N. Graham, Deputy Under Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who will leave for Africa next week, was announced by Dr David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in a statement.

Dr Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, Lab) said, "Discussions of the Rhodesian question have taken place with the United States Government over the past three weeks. I met Mr Vance on May 6. We were in full agreement on the best way to carry matters forward."

Both Governments wish to reiterate their determination to work for the early return of Rhodesia under majority rule in 1978. They have been encouraged by their contacts so far to believe that detailed consultations about an independence constitution and the necessary transitional arrangements could find a satisfactory way to achieve this.

They have therefore agreed that Britain and the United States should now enter into a phase of intensive consultations with the parties.

For this purpose, HM Government have decided to establish a consultative group to take control of the political situation in the area as necessary, including Salisbury. It will be headed by Mr J. A. N. Graham, Deputy Under Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He will leave for Africa next week.

Mr Vance has agreed to appoint a senior United States official to work with the head of the British consultative group.

Mr John Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Knutsford, C), whilst not wishing to take an unduly strong line, said he actually may consider Dr Owen's step by step moving closer and closer to the views expressed by the Opposition for a considerable time.

We welcome the setting up of the consultative group and we welcome the proposed United States participation which we have long desired.

Will Dr Owen say something more on the precise terms of reference of the consultative group and the time that is laid down for its work?

We still believe as part of this solution in the presence of a mission to Salisbury on a resident basis to keep the group and Dr Owen fully informed. Will the setting up of this group in any way lessen its involvement in the settlement of these matters?

We are concerned that in the way the Government have handled these matters from the point of view of the Kissinger initiative has seemed too frequently to accept the reality of events rather too late to react to them rather too late.

We hope Dr Owen is aware of the extreme urgency which we believe surrounds this problem. How does he mean to consult the whole people of Rhodesia in accordance with the principles to which the Government and the Opposition are deeply attached.

Dr Owen—I deliberately did not have precise terms of reference and I do not think it would be a good idea to do so.

I attach a great deal of urgency to this and this is why the consultative group is starting next week and will stay there. I hope they will report back to me in early June.

I have throughout been emphasizing the need for establishing a mission in Salisbury. I do not think this is the right moment but the consultative group will be visiting Salisbury.

I still stand ready to chair any conference that we were to decide on the right moment of doing so.

It is too early to decide the precise form of consulting the people of Rhodesia; whether this would be through a general election or some sort of mechanism such as a referendum.

Whether the House might be satisfied by the sort of activity that has gone on in the consultative group.

I recognize that the House will want the solution to be one which commands the support of the majority in Rhodesia.

Mr Jeremy Thorpe (North Devon, Lab) said, "The consultative group be all British? Will American involvement be on a purely consultative basis or will they be members? Where will the group be based? Will it merely be reporting to the Government or will it have powers to negotiate?"

Dr Owen—British representatives will work under my authority and will be answerable to me. They will not make any major decisions; I will make them on behalf of and in consultation with the Government. Members from the United States will operate under the same arrangement.

There has been and will continue to be close cooperation between Mr Vance and myself, between the British and American Governments and between the Prime Minister and myself.

It is joint enterprise. We are trying to sound our opinion. We will be putting forward suggestions but also listening and trying to reach a consensus about a peaceful transition to majority rule under a constitutional method of effecting this will give an independent Zimbabwe in 1978.

Mr Christopher Brockenhurst (North-West Norfolk, Cons) asked concerning the increasing escalation of violence in Rhodesia. We wish to be assured that Dr Owen will treat these necessary negotiations with a great deal of urgency.

Dr Owen—I wish the existing level of violence would not escalate but there is a tragic irony. There is no magic formula to stop the violence. We have to have a measure of considerable urgency but at the same time we want a settlement on a basis which will

reject the involvement of the United States in anything to do with Rhodesia. Last year for the second time, the front line presidents once again made clear they do not want the involvement of the United States in Africa.

The attempted involvement of America conveys the impression that we cannot go ahead on our own—(Conservative laughter and shouts of "What rubbish")—and it definitely slowing down the whole process of democratisation of Rhodesia. If the Americans were to come in undoubtedly the Soviet Union would want to come in too. (Conservative shouts of "Nonsense".)

Or Owen—There were undoubtedly some misunderstandings about the proposals put forward by Dr Kissinger.

Mr Flannery—Vietnam!

Dr Owen—Mr Flannery must recognize that there is a new administration in the United States which is extremely committed to the whole concept of no racial discrimination and the freedom of movement of movements in southern Africa.

It is not the case that the front line presidents objected to the proposals I put forward. I went and spoke personally to all five front line presidents. They said they would continue to support the principles of the front line presidents.

Mr Peter Lestor (Eton and Slough, Lab)—He left the impression that he is thinking of a limited franchise. Is that so?

Dr Owen—Obviously the issue will be whether the franchise is to be as wide as possible. I am sure that the franchise should be on the widest possible basis. If it is necessary to give some safeguards for minority opinion, we will also be prepared to discuss this. This must be seen against the background of a wide franchise we have given to the front line presidents.

Mr Alexander Lynn (York, Lab)—What is the proposal for the Zimbabwe Development Fund, initially suggested by Dr Kissinger? What is very much part of the front line presidents' world which you do not discuss? This is one of the central reasons why this is the right moment but the consultative group will be visiting Salisbury.

I still stand ready to chair any conference that we were to decide on the right moment of doing so.

It is important to assure an independent Zimbabwe of economic prosperity and stability and, in a general election, some sort of mechanism such as a referendum.

Whether the House might be satisfied by the sort of activity that has gone on in the consultative group.

Mr Alexander Lynn (York, Lab)—The question of the franchise is

crucial to any settlement. Unless this agreement is accepted by the people of Zimbabwe it does not matter whether it is accepted by this House or the front line presidents. It must be based on one man one vote in order that we can be sure that Zimbabweans have accepted it.

Mr Dennis Waller (Westbury, G)—Saying in mind that the main reason for the failure of the Kissinger initiative was that we did not involve the United States in the subsequent negotiations, is he quite sure that he will involve them fully now? Is it not regrettable that they will not be co-chairs of the conference?

Dr Owen—We discussed co-chairmanship with the United States and we jointly agreed that that would be wrong. It is always better to have one chairman. The exact form, and how and when to call a conference is something later on down the track. The United States are fully involved in this and that has been shown in the last few days when there have been close conversations.

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Mr Peter Blaikie (Blackpool, South, C)—Has he made clear to the front line presidents that it will be incompatible with this practice—in giving independence to 30 countries—that they should nominate the future rulers of Rhodesia and they are to be prepared to do a few weeks ago?

Mr Alexander Lynn (York, Lab)—Dr Owen—The front line presidents have been leaders of elections fairly held inside Rhodesia, supervised to ensure they are fair. They would be chosen by the people who would live under the new constitution.

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Ronald Butt

# Can Mrs Thatcher come to terms with state ownership?

What will the Conservatives do when and if they come to power? The likelihood that they will win whenever the election comes must now be reckoned so substantial as to make the question one of real practicality. I therefore hope to apply the question to a number of topics from time to time, starting today with nationalization.

The Tories, of course, have always been against state ownership. Their position has been rooted in their philosophical and practical belief in the efficacy of private endeavour and the stabilizing effect of bureaucracy on personal freedom. On the other hand, they have for a long time had to put up with state-owned industries, the most recent hope is to dismantle, and to reconstruct for the most part with trying to impose more testing financial standards on them.

The result has often been to fall between two stools: the Beeching axe that slashed at uneconomic railway lines left the railways no more genuinely commercial (perhaps less) and a great deal less of a genuine public utility which is surely the only real justification for state ownership. Mrs Thatcher is, temporarily,

probably more hostile to state ownership than any of her recent Tory predecessors. But, of course, she knows as well as they did that she will not be able to dismantle the greater part of state ownership. Publicly owned railways, coal and steel (for who would take the last-named if it were denationalized a second time in its present state?) are here to stay, not to mention the utilities, gas and electricity and the now profit-making Post Office.

On the other hand, Mrs Thatcher's dislike of state ownership is not just a crude reflex reference back to traditional Conservative attitudes. The Conservatives can fairly claim that they more have the proof of a rather bad pudding from the eating of it in two major respects.

For one thing, it is all too evident that the real test of any government's capacity to keep some sort of overall control over wages (and I do not mean that in terms of conventional pay policies) always runs the greatest risk of being tested to destruction in the public sector. There the government is itself the employer of last resort. If private employers pay more

wages than they can afford, they can either go bust or put up prices, and if inflation results, the government can intervene by controlling the supply of money.

But what is a government to do when it is politically tested by unions using their whole weight for unjustified wages in a public monopoly industry the focus of industrial life, nationally and internationally?

Yet when all this has been said, it must be added that there could be no question of a major Conservative attempt at denationalization of the long-standing state-owned industries, and that the only measure of recent nationalization that the Conservatives seem able to reverse is land—the Community Land Act having already come unstuck. But even the Tory approach to shipbuilding and aircraft is warnish as far as the interests of British Shipbuilders and British Aerospace ... should be sold off to the private sector," says the Tory quasi-government manifesto known as *The Right Approach*.

But how much and by what means? Mrs Thatcher thinks that a great deal can be done to reduce the size of public sector if she has two or three Parliaments in which to do it.

tion of new nationalized industries has maintained the proportion of the public sector. On that basis, nationalization is no more likely to be a solution for declining shipbuilding industry than it was for coal and industry. State ownership cannot protect an industry from the facts of industrial life, nationally and internationally.

Meanwhile, however, the party does not (at least at the official level) show any great sign of confidence that even the latest measures of nationalization can be substantially reversed. There are schemes of one sort or another being discussed: the idea of issuing shares on a BP pattern is one of them. But even here, the leaders of the party are cautious: they remember that after all, BP has always been a commercial company; it was never run or planned as a state enterprise.

With this, shall we say, measure of caution among the official thinkers of the party, as they search for something that is credible as well as politically appealing, particular interest attaches to ideas voiced from the Tory backbenches.

"As much as possible of the interests of British Shipbuilders and British Aerospace ... should be sold off to the private sector," says the Tory MP for Mid-Sussex.

Mr Renfrew (rightly, I think) sees no answer to the reform of board structures so as to isolate the nationalized executives from ministers and Parliament. This would only be extra "wrapping paper" through which the management would have to struggle before getting down to real business. The NEDC solution of "policy councils" would just add another layer of "wise men"; the management would still have to produce its plans and ministers would still change them for the sake of short-term objectives.

Mr Renfrew's solution is to change the ownership, introduce private capital and split the responsibility between public and private shareholders.

He suggests a concrete plan. Next time British Gas needs to raise funds, it could offer on the free market unsecured loan stock that was convertible into ordinary shares. It would have to be done in an attractive commercial situation (as in the case of British Gas

which is moving into a period of regular profitability and big technical development) since the financial institutions and private buyers would not buy into loss-making situations.

If such an offer was successful, reasons Mr Renfrew and British Gas made increasing profits, the loan stock would be converted into equity and the shape of questioning politicians.

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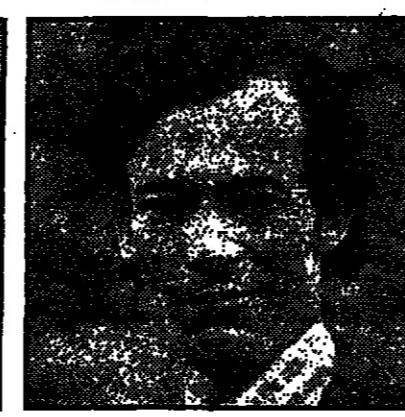
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Labour's by-election losers: D. J. Winnick (Walsall North); M. Cowan (Ashfield); T. Davis (Stechford); D. Campbell-Savours (Workington).

## After Labour's spectacular defeats, the future looks far from rosy

Labour's spectacular by-election defeats have prompted questions about its long-term electoral prospects. Do Workington, Walsall North, Stechford and Ashfield reflect no more than the normal mid-term unpopularity of the party in office, or do they imply a deeper-lying and more permanent disenchantment with Labour?

Labour optimists can make two points. First, the fall in Labour's share of the vote is no worse than it was in 1968/69 or indeed than that suffered by the Conservatives at Sutton, Ely and Ripon in 1972/73 (although to the benefit of the Liberals rather than Labour). But these comparisons are misleading.

Labour's by-election humiliation in the late 1960s occurred after its exceptionally strong showing in the 1966 general election, when it won 49 per cent of the poll including many "unattached" voters. It thus had an unusually large number of voters "at risk" in the by-elections that followed. So for similar reasons did the Conservatives after 1970.

Labour's losses in the recent by-elections, however, have come after its much poorer showing in the October 1974 election, when it won only 39 per cent of the poll, almost all of whom will have been regular Labour supporters. This time Labour has therefore had many fewer voters "at risk" and should have incurred milder adverse swings. The fact that its percentage vote losses equal those of the late 1960s suggests a quite abnormal erosion of support, even for a government in mid-term.

Labour also takes comfort from the regularity with which successive governments since the mid-1950s have recovered from dramatic setbacks in by-elections and local elections to the subsequent general election. (Conservatives in 1959; or at least once it to a close finish (the Conservatives in 1964 and Labour in 1970).

The forces sustaining this stabilizing electoral cycle, however, may be declining. In the past they have partly rested on the ability of the government of the day to manipulate the

All Labour identifiers	Change 1964-74	
	1964	1974
Who do not believe that trade unions have "too much power"	53	44
Whose sympathies are generally for strikers	37	23
In favour of retaining close ties between the trade unions and the Labour Party	38	29
In favour of nationalizing more	57	50
In favour of spending more on the social services	89	61
Believing that big business has "too much power"	80	83
Average	60	48

Labour identifiers who are manual workers and trade unionists (or their family dependents) and under 45	Change 1964-74
	-24%
	-11%
	-21%
	-18%
	-37%
	+3%
	-18%

economy to its advantage in the election run-up. But the fragility of sterling, the conditions attached to the IMF loan, and the sheer economic consequences of such irresponsibility probably make this option less available to the present Government than to any other since the war.

The electoral cycle also rests on the deep and enduring attachments that most electors have traditionally held for one or other party, attachments which sustain loyalty in times of doubt or disappointment, and thus save unpopular governments from electoral defeat.

The political scientists divide such attachments into three kinds. First, ties of habit: the loyalty engendered by family, upbringing and neighbourhood tradition. Secondly, the ties produced by membership of a social group.

Outside Ulster this basically amounts to a sense of belonging (or equally of not belonging) to the working class and the trade union movement, accompanied by the belief that Labour represents the interests of both. And thirdly, there are ideological ties.

Election surveys conducted since the early 1960s suggest, however, that these attachments to the two main parties have been gradually weakened

from 67 per cent to 49 per cent, to have diminished but also to have lost its partisan force.

The most intriguing change, however, relates to ideological factors, for here the positions of the two main parties diverge. Among Conservatives approval of their party's major policy positions has been consistently strong since the early 1960s. Whatever the source of the massive fall in the Conservative vote in 1974 it does not seem to be disaffection from the party's basic principles (as opposed, perhaps, to the particular record of the Heath government).

In Labour's ranks, however, the last decade has witnessed a major haemorrhaging of support for the main policy tenets of the party. There is clear evidence of increasing hostility to Labour's traditional allies, the trade unions. In 1964 a majority of Labour supporters denied that trade unions were too powerful; by 1974 a majority agreed.

Declarations of general sympathy for strikers slipped from 37 per cent in a minuscule 23 per cent. Endorsement of the party's links with the trade unions, which was never strong, trickled from 38 per cent to 29 per cent. Support for further nationalization—a principle enshrined in the party constitu-

tion—fell from 57 per cent to 50 per cent. And perhaps most significant of all, there has been a large drop in approval for what is generally regarded as Labour's strongest suit—spending on the social services—from 89 per cent in 1964 to 60 per cent 10 years later.

Only the belief that big business is too powerful has been steadily—and heavily—upheld in this period.

Only two of the six Labour "positions" listed in the table were supported by even a bare majority of Labour's own supporters. It is difficult to conceive of a party avoiding long-term decline if the majority of its supporters reject the majority of its basic policies.

The implications for Labour are even more disturbing than the figures suggest. For ideological disaffection has grown faster in some sectors of Labour support than others.

Labour's younger middle class supporters, for example, are now the sturdiest upholders of its traditional principles; its younger working class and trade unionist supporters, on the other hand, have abandoned Labour policy positions faster than any other group. And it is on this large lower group—that Labour will necessarily rely most heavily in the future.

Of course, nothing in a trend guarantees its conclusion. It could be stopped by a vigorous and imaginative presentation of both the Government's case and of Labour's principles generally—as the Grimsby result shows.

But should the erosion of Labour loyalties continue the Government will be less able than its predecessors to avoid massive defeat at the next election through reliance on the normal electoral cycle.

\* A detailed report appears in the latest issue of the *British Journal of Political Science*. The report is based on surveys conducted by the British Election Study at the University of Essex.

Ivor Crewe  
The author is Project Director of the British Election Study at the University of Essex.

Food Guide), and ended with a gala dinner at the Mirabelle (two stars in Ronay and nothing in the Good Food Guide).

They did not come to criticize. Over sweetbreads in wine and orange sauce with flaked, roasted almonds at the Mirabelle, Boucuse, who had left his wife and daughter to run the restaurant, said loyally that while it was almost impossible for restaurant guests to be catered for in large groups at the Mirabelle was an exception.

He and others expressed apparently genuine sympathy which Giscard d'Estaing, who gave Boucuse the Legion d'Honneur in return for a meal at the Elysée, could not be with them. The French President, of course, was eating at Buckingham Palace at the time.

Boucuse really did sleep here, for most of his childhood, and ate in the splendid hall of the old palace, which now does a nice line in Elizabethan banquets. Daytime visitors pay 80p to enter the grounds and house, and eat in more modest fashion in a simple bar bright and clean self-service coffee shop in the

old stables, or at an adjoining service restaurant, which was almost deserted at 12.30 on a Friday while the grounds swarmed with visitors, mostly of them school parties.

Catering at Hestfield is contracted out to a local bakery of good reputation, and the coffee shop had an attractive selection of cakes alongside the salad counter and the simple hot meals of hamburgers or beans on toast, ideal dishes for starving children.

We had a generous egg salad at £1.10, made to order with two eggs and a good selection of tomatoes, coleslaw, potato salad and other garnishes. The waitress was extremely friendly and enthusiastic, pronouncing it "large, fresh and very fruity, liberally topped with fresh cream".

We had a thin-wrapped egg sandwich, in precisely brown bread which was soft and fresh but not overfull for 27p. The blackcurrant fruit tart at 40p, which my friend the expert received enthusiastically, pronouncing it "large, fresh and very fruity, liberally topped with fresh cream".

The other day, when I passed a sign outside a typing school and egg dealer, I suggested that it represented the ultimate in polymathy. It ran a close second to an item in the Times Educational Supplement alleging the transfer of Professor H. R. Lomax, professor of financial control at University College, Cardiff, to the chair of History at Westfield College, London.

can watch the blacksmith from the coffee shop window for his working. Next: Woburn Abbey and Leeds Castle.

Going

There is already a brisk trade in memorabilia from the Memore sale, which only starts next week. At Sotheby's yesterday offers of £50 and £60 for complete sets of the illustrated catalogues (original price £30) were being briskly rejected.

The commissionaire was also advising people in search of the £3.50 illustrated catalogue, unobtainable yesterday in London, to invest in any single one of the remaining illustrated ones, sell it at a profit when they reached Memore, and buy an unillustrated catalogue there. That is called dealing in the antique trade.

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best to celebrate Jubilee week, you could do worse than retrieve that rusty old bicycle from the garden shed and saddle up for Jubilee Bike Week. This will have the threefold effect of working off the excess fat acquired at any other loyal junketings so that you may be attending, toning up the heart muscles that you have a sparing chance of living to see the Golden Jubilee, and raising money for the British Heart Foundation.

Bike Week was announced by the British Cycling Bureau at a press conference yesterday, and just to make sure everyone got the message, Katie Boyle, the celebrity, rode a bicycle round the room. The bureau waxes all the country's 12 million cyclists to take part, though not in their living rooms.

The idea is that if you have a bike, you get all your friends to sponsor you for every mile you cycle during Bike Week, then hand the money over to the British Heart Foundation.

## The Times Diary

### Putting some push into jubilee

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THE TIMES

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## A NEW PLAN FOR RHODESIA

The fruit of Dr Owen's tour of southern Africa and his discussions last week with Mr Vance were unveiled yesterday. They amount to the dispatch of a negotiating team under Mr John Graham to do the same round again to make concrete agreements out of Dr Owen's private identification of possibilities of agreement. The co-sponsorship of a conference by Britain and the United States, like the interim arrangements for the Kissinger plan, are set aside. But there is to be a senior American official attached to the group, as there was a British official available for consultation in Dr Kissinger's team. Mr Nkomo may use this as an excuse not to play, but it proves the continuity of Anglo-American policy and the best argument that British responsibility is now combined with American power. That is the first condition of success and will be welcome to Africans who want a peaceful settlement.

Also hopeful was Dr Owen's assurance that this method, of bringing matters further is approved by the frontline presidents. Its attraction for them is not far to seek. It keeps discussion with each of them private and bilateral, leaving them to maintain consultation with each other. It leaves them uncommitted to details, and to public pressures such as arise out of the set positions taken up at a conference. At the same time the one achievement which the Africans claim from the Geneva conference—a commitment to independence under majority rule by September 1978—is preserved in Dr Owen's formula, though careful reading does not

indicate that everything stands or falls by it.

While the objections of Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe to Anglo-American efforts has been met by dropping suggestions for a new conference, Dr Owen has said that he is ready to chair one if the need emerged from the work of the consultative group. It is possible to conceive of agreement being reached on a constitution to be embodied in legislation for the British parliament to enact "purely" by bilateral discussions with the parties concerned, though there are obvious difficulties in dispensing with a plenary. The immediate problem of the consultative group is to argue Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe out of a position in which they are demanding a conference at which Mr Smith surrenders at discretion, having discovered that his forces can no longer hold their own in the field. There is an attitude which takes no account of the certain preference by the vast majority of black Rhodesians for a transition to majority rule under peaceful auspices. It must be hoped therefore that Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe, and presumably the leaders of the guerrillas at the appropriate stage, will cooperate with the group.

Dr Owen's statement revealed nothing of Mr Smith's attitude. The great question is whether he is ready to stand down in Rhodesia's white population seen to be worried. The British and American Governments evidently consider that it is urgent for them now to get moderate black regimes in office in Rhodesia and Namibia before they lose all influence over events in southern Africa. Even so, everything still turns on the reactions of Mr Smith and his Government.

## MR CARTER'S EAST-WEST SOUNDINGS

President Carter's visit to London has left a distinct tingle in the air. With the public he has established himself as a man with the common touch. Among western politicians he has shown himself realistic, practical and willing to listen. He has thus achieved one of his main aims in coming, which was to establish personal contact with Europe and to emphasize his commitment to its security. He has also done a lot to dispel the gloomy contemplation of failure which had become habitual in the western alliance over the past few years. He is not blind to the problems which face the alliance but he has brought back to the White House the traditional American belief in the ability of democratic societies to regenerate from within to meet inner and outer challenges. It is a long time since such infectious optimism emanated from Washington.

If the optimism is to prove justified the momentum generated by the summit and Nato meetings must be maintained. As far as Nato is concerned, yesterday's communiqué is a promising starting point. It rightly emphasizes the need for better cooperation in defence production. Here a lot of work needs to be done on both sides of the Atlantic to improve cooperation among governments to prevent this cooperation being undermined by the wrong sort of competition among business interests. Enormous improvements in the efficiency of the alliance could be achieved

at no extra cost if the more absurd forms of duplication and incompatibility of weapons systems were eliminated.

In more general terms the communiqué strikes about the right balance between confrontation and cooperation. It expresses particular concern about the continuing growth in the strength and offensive capabilities of the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact countries, and emphasizes the need for adequate defence and deterrence. At the same time it calls for concrete efforts to reduce the level of armaments through realistic measures of disarmament and arms control. It also invites the Warsaw Pact countries to play a constructive role in north-south relations, which they have hitherto largely refused.

The basic message, in other words, is that Nato is ready for cooperation with the Warsaw Pact but is more determined than ever to maintain its defences until they can be lowered in the context of agreements which ensure undiminished security. Such agreements remain disappointingly elusive, which is one reason for the marked deterioration of east-west relations over the past few years. The west explains this largely as a result of the uninhibited build-up of Soviet forces, which has already taken the Soviet Union well past the point of defensive sufficiency. The Russians, seemingly secure in the conviction of their own innocence, say that western anxieties are the result of hostile

## THE CANNIBAL BISCUIT

In the last century there is supposed to have been a lady who arranged the books in her library on a systematic basis unknown to John Evelyn. Alphabetic principles were observed—only so long as they did not require books by male and female authors to rub shoulders (not to mention spines)—on her shelves. Exceptions were made for Mr and Mrs Browning and other authors who had been married to one another. There is no reason to think that she imposed the usual tendency of books to multiply beyond the capacity of the shelving provided; this was due to interbreeding. The idea of inconceivable varrots combining the qualities of Eliot (G.) and Eliot (T.S.), Sterne and Stowe (Harriet Beecher), or Keats and Krupsaya did not dismay her. Even individuals, as dory as she, could still remain a bottom of good sense.

Not so committee. Not so the Food Standards Committee. In its test report it asserts that the digestive biscuit is misleadingly named. To justify its name, said its committee chairman, Professor Alan Ward, yesterday, the biscuit should have the power of digesting itself. Unless it could be shown to do so, the name should be banned.

Cannibalism among biscuits is

admittedly rare, let alone auto-cannibalism. But the purchaser who actually goes out in search of a cannibal biscuit—the only one likely to be disappointed by this interpretation of the name—must be still rarer. Open the packet at tea-time and half of them might be gone. If they were believed to feed on themselves, people would surely begin to have fears for the pelicans. A hungry biscuit the last on the plate could easily slip under a locked door and digest Aunt Charlotte while she slept.

In fact "digestive" does not simply mean self-digesting, and never has. The Food Standards Committee would have been on better ground if instead of robbing with ideas of confectionery suicide it had squarely rested its case on the fact that the word's original sense in English was "promoting or aiding digestion". When Chaucer's Chauntecleer wakes up, shuddering after a nightmare in which he has been carried off by a terrifying monster which he does not recognize, but which can easily be recognized by the reader as the Food Standards Committee, his wife diagnoses an upper stomach and recommends laxatives and "digestives" of worms" (the original recipe is no longer precisely followed, incidentally). It is idle to deny

that the biscuit was named in Victorian times with a view to encouraging people to think that it did them good. The manufacturers make no claim to medicinal virtues today and it is unlikely that many buyers make the connection at all.

For the word is moribund in everyday usage except with reference to biscuits. "Doctor, I am not a supermarket". Dictionaries do not acknowledge this development yet, though they take note of many similar ones. Still, they contain enough shades of meaning for the word in question, to confound the Food Standards Committee. "Characterized by bearing without resistance or in silence" (O.E.D.). Who has ever heard a biscuit cry out against its fate? That definition is stigmatized as obsolete, though. But what about "pertaining to digestion"? (O.E.D.) How can a food not pertain to digestion? And finally, simply, "digestible" (O.E.D. again). It would take a jaundiced critic to deny that the committee can only make out a convincing case if they are prepared to claim that the digestive is literally indigestible. And if they dare to try that they all deserve to be transported to wherever power is till now been dependent.

But in your issue of April 23, which has just reached me, you record one of the greatest discoveries that man has made. Dr Peter Carden and his fellow workers have found a method of storing solar energy, which enables it to be transported to wherever power is

nothing but harm to the "student cause", nor can the nature of the NUS ever change for it will always remain the forum of those students in general, and this is a situation which can only damage the Conservative Party.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID SOSKIN,  
President, Oxford University  
Conservative Association,  
Eton College Road, NW1  
May 7.

CONSERVATIVE STUDENTS  
from Mr David Soskin

I, writing as one who has attended both NUS and PCS conferences, wish to applaud Ronald Butt's article (May 5).

If the PCS has a role it should encourage support for the Conservative Party in the universities and colleges, and certainly not believe the NUS which does

nothing but harm to the "student cause", nor can the nature of the NUS ever change for it will always remain the forum of those students in general, and this is a situation which can only damage the Conservative Party.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID GARNETT,  
Le Verger de Chilly,  
Montreuil, 93300  
France  
April 27.

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## Preserving the British archive

From Dr Michael Howard, FBA

Sir, I hope that the weight of the evidence and of the arguments brought forward by Professor Margaret Gowing and your other correspondents will by now have made it clear to your readers that the problem of the public archives is a great deal more serious than the Lord Chancellor would have us

believe.

Like Professor Gowing I have enjoyed, as an "official historian", privileged access to public records. But this access only enables one to see more clearly the inadequacy of the existing system of accumulating, cataloguing and "weeding" archives in ministries before they pass into the skilled hands of the Public Records Office. To penetrate beyond the smooth lawns and gravelled paths of the PRO to the ministerial archives themselves is to find oneself in primeval jungle. In the Foreign and Cabinet Office, there is a mass of documents which are simply not enough people to care for the records, and those who are available only too often lack the training which is now essential for the adequate custody of complex modern archives. This, I am afraid, is particularly true of the enormous amount of material engendered by the Ministry of Defence.

Evidently Dr Owen still hopes

that a Zimbabwe development fund will keep white expertise in the new state, and in some way help reinforce formal safeguards,

but he is wisely not being

optimistic. The gap between what

safeguards Mr Smith would accept in return for his resignation, and those Mr Mugabe

would concede or honour is

conjectural.

It is increasingly felt that the

time is now short for a negotiated

settlement. The friends of

Rhodesia's white population seem

to be worried. The British and

American Governments evidently

consider that it is urgent for

them now to get moderate black

regimes in office in Rhodesia

and Namibia before they lose all

influence over events in southern

Africa. Even so, everything still

turms on the reactions of Mr

Smith and his Government.

The difference between the situation here and that in the United States is painful. There a single

Public Archives Service, staffed by

trained professionals, is responsible

for the care of documents both

governmental and public

archives. It is those who are responsible

for "weeding" and declassification.

They are therefore able to provide

continuous care for archives from

the moment of their formation until

they become available to the general

public. The service no doubt has its

own disadvantages, but as a model

it has everything to recommend it

above our own dichotomy between

the one hand, "classified" documents

in the care of often unqualified officials and on the other "open" documents cared for

by trained archivists in the PRO.

I hope therefore that you will

keep up your pressure for an

enquiry into the whole question of

the care and custody of public

records as a matter of urgency. The

inadequacy of the existing arrangements

will become increasingly evident as the records of the past

30 years become available for public

inspection, but by then it will be too late. The problem is one to be solved not so much by spending more money as by taking a great deal more thought, and by making better use of the resources we have.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL HOWARD,

All Souls College,

Oxford.

May 9.

Who owns the farmland?

From Mr Roderick Thomson

Sir, Xenophobia seems to be creeping at the edges of the land ownership question in Britain. Land owners are, for the most part, free market people; they greatly benefit from an unrestricted market in land as sellers. As buyers, we may

now be facing the situation Italians and Portuguese found themselves in during the latter half of the nineteenth century: potential buyers of estates unable to buy

because the price of the market had become too hot; national sellers

out of foreign forces in force majeure.

Nothing, of course, surprises me

more than the lack of evidence

of the case put by Mr Callaghan and

Mr Healey by Mrs Thatcher and (2)

Sir Keith Joseph will somehow

do the trick.

It would not do the trick.

If the present policy of wage restraint

crashes it will not be the Tory

Party that will pick up the bill.

We should either have to rally

round a national government, on

an overwhelming Parliamentary

majority and capable of taking and

enforcing decisions involving a

full fall in the standard of living

and in social services (which seems

unlikely) or we should have to accept a form of non-parliamentary dictatorship.

I suspect that the electorate would

not greatly care for this last

solution. Rationing might, indeed,

restrict inflation and a great

development of the armed forces

and the police might reduce unemployment, but censorship would also be applied, and liberty would fly out of the window.

Few seem to think that all this is a possibility. Unfortunately, it is.

Yours faithfully,

Gladwyn,

House of Lords.

May 10.

It is just assumed that the simple

replacement of Mr Callaghan and

Mr Healey by Mrs Thatcher and (2)

Sir Keith Joseph will somehow

do the trick.

It would not do the trick.

If the present policy of wage restraint

crashes it will not be the Tory

# Fashion in New York

by Prudence Glynn



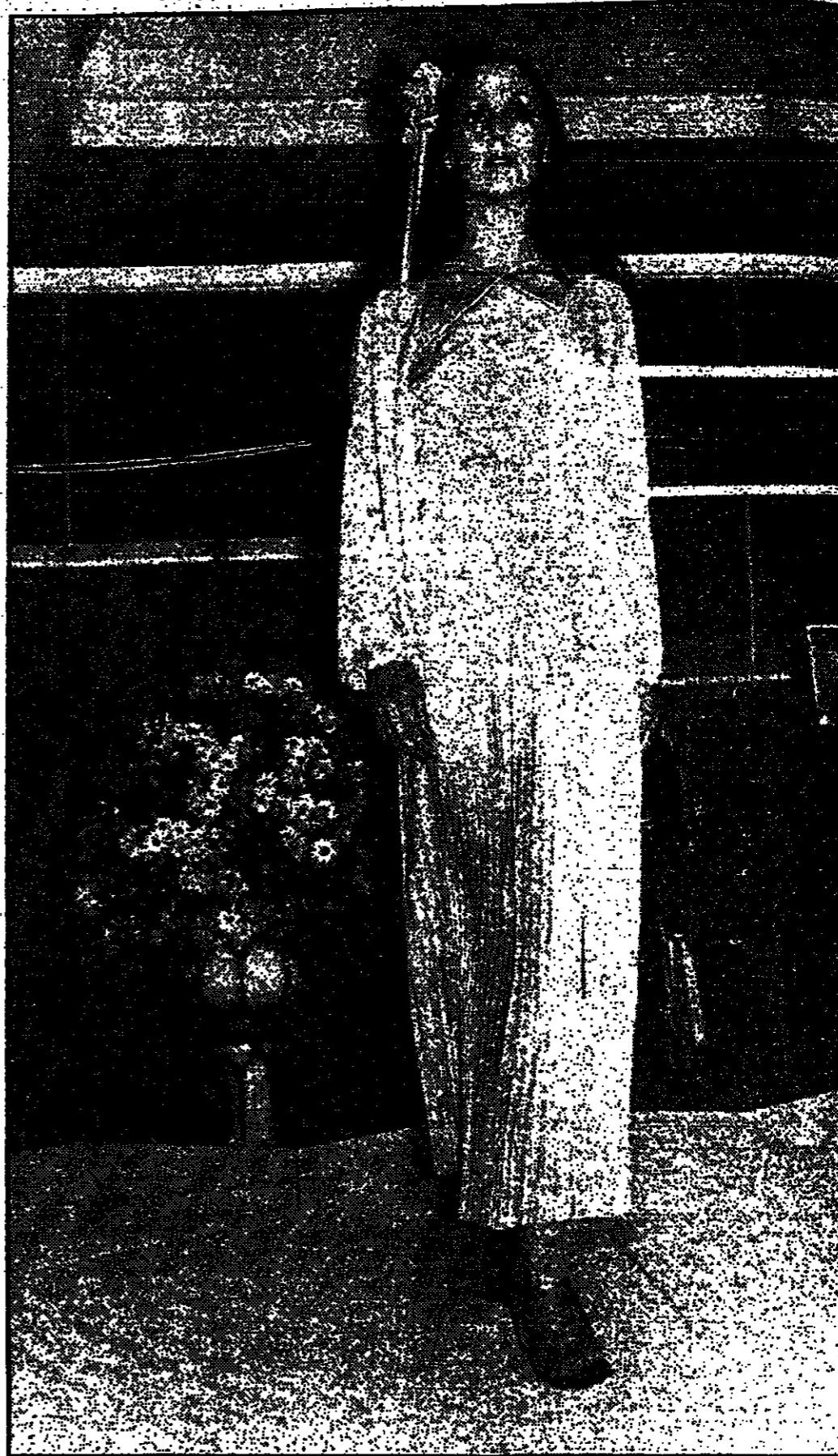
Two designers who have been showing in America and whose dresses are currently available in the Design Room at Selfridges.

Right: A jacket, skirt and top in pure silk in blue with fine blue embroidery on the top, by Salvador at £187.

Far left: A red cotton crepon dress by Janice Wainwright which costs £77.

Left: Salvador's bright yellow jersey dress which comes with trousers at £126 and can also be bought without them for £72.

Pictures: Harry Kerr



## A Martini is a Martini is a Martini.

Any way you have it.

On the rocks—with gin or vodka—or as a long drink with ice and soda.

That subtle, unique Martini Dry taste comes singing through every time. Fresh...clean...light.

A taste that could be called sheer poetry.

The right one.  
Any way. **MARTINI**

**EXTRA DRY**

**MR MARTINI**  
Only carefully selected wines  
and herbs are good enough for the  
world's most beautiful drink.

## Trans-Atlantic fashion lessons for Britain

Of the many criticisms levelled at us as a nation one of the few that has seemed to me from first hand experience to have validity is that we are weak on follow-through. The way to hell is paved with good intentions (and British good manners) the way to bankruptcy is paved with British inventions which are then taken up elsewhere.

Thus having last week indulged in the fun and pleasure of visiting New York again, it behoves me to rehearse now the lessons to be learned by our fashion industry from the trip. There are a lot more onward fashion missions lodged under the Clothing Export Council and the British Overseas Trade Board's wings, and there is a whole month of res Britishness in the Au Printemps stores in France from mid-September, and you know how sharp the French can be.

When the thirteen designers under the umbrella of the London Designer Collections arrived in New York—a further five excellent names were out there too under other patrons—it was the first big manifestation of British fashion since the 'strikes' which was not quality anyway, but cheap, high-style Carnaby Street stuff.

We certainly won over America in the sixties but it was a Pyrrhic victory. It did show the new inspiration and verve and iconoclasm of British fashion design; it did in the short-term gain us a lot of valuable orders and enable a few very perceptive buyers to recognize that here was a truly alternative look to those of Paris or Italy, if they could once get behind the swirling scenes and find a little professionalism. It was hard to find for there was no follow-through. The backlash of that last invasion was a reputation for bad fit, bad finish, bad deliveries (if any) and a cheapness which nobody with either a social conscience or any political sense about Britain's welfare state commitments should have banked on.

As it happened we still did well in American terms, but that is because of distribution and the quicker we can float out of that the better. The fact is that we do not need to be cheap to attract buyers because we can now offer precisely what the fashion market at the discriminating level wants. Ten years ago Geraldine Stutz was sure that the growth area of fashion was quality inserted in individuality; lots and lots of small, special talents doing clothes with which a certain woman could identify very personally. She built her store, Bendels, around her conviction, and discovered a promising land Britain, with its art college boom and growing conviction in the young that small was right.

"The trouble with the British designers" says Mr Stutz "is that they lost sight of the market and they say 'OK, there are lots of people who are going to like what I'm doing, but there are quite enough who won't, and I would rather make what I want to make than compromise.' Knowing this attitude so well I myself cannot help worrying at a certain touch of arrogance in our approach to precious markets, but, as always it seems, we have been saved by the tide of events. Fashion at this time is entirely in search of an individual conviction."

America is, of course, an ideal market for British talent if we can marry our lack of compromise—which they like—to a little more professionalism. The country is after all enormous—however high priced or individual the clothes, stretched across all the States, many of the size of other countries, there is a magnificent potential of buyers. Peter Reger told me that a two in size and took out of

imitable shape will retail for £35 in the United States, nevertheless the Regers were selling them as if the women's liberation holocaust had never been.

Virtually all the London Designer Collection group merchandise was subject to very high import duty because it came under the heading of "non-functional trim"; ie the heads were not actually crucial, though as a matter of fact in many cases they were, for decency. I do long to know what constitutes "non-functional trim". It is one of those lovely official jargon phrases no-one quite understands. I mean, at what point below it do you get arrested?

Another move in the right direction for British fashion is that the dominance of the stores has been somewhat eroded at last by the appearance of small, individual shops, many of them owned by former employees of big stores. This marks a departure in American retailing, and Madison Avenue is where it is all at in New York. Such shops suit the specialized handwriting and limited production desires of British companies.

The British group showed at a brand new venue called Paul's Plaza, next door to Madison Square Garden and smack on 7th (Madison) Avenue. The space they took is rented for five years by a Mr Tubbs, and while originally this is a new complex, at a more reasonable cost. The arrangements were neat and cool, it was possible to see the whole group comfortably, and no-one had any complaints about the organization. On receipt of the Clothing Export Council's blessing for the venture, the British Overseas Trade Board supported the London Designer Collection, a non-profit making organization therefore appropriate as a sponsor for such a lavish use of public funds (when is someone going to do a collection in red tape?).

The real instigator of this British show was Eric Hall, managing director and owner of Salvador. He came out to the European fashion fairs last year and was convinced that this year he had to be tapped. So, he soon found, would be his difficulties.

Eric West has been to and from New York several times at his own expense to set up the latest visit and to make contacts. Only \$13,000 could be allocated for pre-publicity—trivial when you plan to show during Market Week Two, "couture week" in the New York calendar. I think the timing was right. But we were left with the provocative suggestion from Ira Niemann of Bergdorf's that Britain should show in Europe between Milan and Paris. Even if buyers were not committed, it would kill any idea that we follow the French, and also buyers would come back if they needed, less tired and with budgets more open than now when they hit the London and Birmingham market last of all. Bergdorf's is certainly making fashion running just now, having revived what was popularly thought to be the corpse of French haute couture by selling Givenchy and equally stellar priced original models again. Ninety-five per cent of the numbers were reserved before the show was even staged in New York.

Bill Gibb is thinking of a shop in New York. Peter Reger has formed a corporation over there. Eric West has taken an apartment and hopes to set up a permanent London Designer Collection office in New York. In France stage a massive government backed presence here, so do the Italians. We have begun modestly, but with plenty of buyers and plenty of the right publicity.

Concluded

## COURT CIRCULAR

### BUCKINGHAM PALACE

May 11: The Duke of Devonshire was in audience at the Queen's audience room, and the appointment at Clarence House.

The Queen Mother, Chancellor of the University of London, this afternoon presided at a ceremony for the presentation of Degrees at the Royal Albert Hall.

Her Majesty subsequently attended the presentation Day Service in Westminster Abbey.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Viscountess Mountbatten, Captain Alastair Acland and Lord Bruce were in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**

May 11: The Princess Margaret,

Countess of Snowdon, was present

at the service at St George's Chapel.

Mr. Sir Hugh Chisholm, M.P.,

Mrs. Diana Cooper (Counsellor),

Colonel Young, Royal Artillery (Defence Attaché), Mr. Alan Hock Lee (Press Attaché), Mr. Alan Brown (Attache), Mr. Hugh Grant Lee (Counselor) and Mr. Tony H. Oh (First Secretary).

Madame Yew-Wook Han had the honour of being received by Her

Sir Michael Phillips (Permanent

Under-Secretary of State for

Foreign and Commonwealth

Affairs), who had the honour of

presenting the Queen's

Colours and the Gentlemen

of the Household in Waiting were

in attendance.

Admiral Sir John Treacher had

the honour of being received by

His Excellency his appointment as

Commander-in-Chief Fleet.

The Queen held a Council at

2.40 o'clock this afternoon.

There were present the Right

Hon. Member (Lord President)

and the Right Hon. Robert

Secretary Treasury.

Mr. Neville Heath was in

attendance as Clerk of the

council.

### Upcoming Marriages

Mr. E. T. Gurney and Miss M. E. D. Agnew

the engagement is announced between Richard Ernest Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gurney, of Egerton Farmhouse, Horsted, West, and Margaret Anne, daughter of Mr. Terence Agnew, of Onslow Hall, Cirencester, and Mrs. K. Brooks Rose.

Captain R. J. Heath and Miss L. J. Challis

The engagement is announced between Captain James Heath, the Light Infantry, son of Mr. R. Heath, of 52 Fairhazel Gardens, Fairhazel, NW6, and Mrs. P. T. Heath, of 10 Wharfdale Street, SW10, and Linda, daughter of Captain R. and Mrs. Anthony Challis, of 106 Woodford Square, Cen

tury, W14.

Mr. A. R. Horn and Miss E. K. Lamb

The engagement is announced between Tony, second son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Horn, of Sandon, Luton, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Captain and Mrs. W. Lamb, of Lyndhurst, Hampshire.

Mr. N. Lees and Miss S. E. Dunton

the engagement is announced between Miss Lees, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mary, of Farbold, and Sarah, daughter of George and

Elizabeth, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr. J. E. Moore and Miss M. A. Elmefors

The engagement is announced between John Richard, elder son of the late John Mount and Mrs. Mount of Woolton Farm, Belgrave, near Canterbury, and Mrs. Elizabeth Elmefors, of Cambridge.

Mr. R. Wilkes and Miss M. F. Wright

The engagement is announced between Robert, second son of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Wilson, of 20, Worcester Road, Hampstead, NW3, and Elizabeth, daughter of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. E. J. Wright of Elm House, Ampleforth, York.

Mr. E. C. Stocker and Miss M. J. McEvie

The marriage took place on May 11, 1977, at St. Paul's, Bolton, SW10, between Mr. Guy Stocker and Miss Julie McEvie.

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## **Shares in retreat**

Account Days : Dealings Begun, May 9. Dealings End, May 20. 5 Contango Day, May 23. Settlement Day, May 31.

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Taking stock  
of the  
Chiasso affair,  
page 27

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Saudis may demand bigger say in IMF affairs as price for vital contribution

By David Black  
Economics Correspondent

There is a growing conviction in international monetary circles that much bigger say in the International Monetary Fund will be the price that Saudi Arabia will demand for making a major contribution to the \$16,000m scheme being proposed by the Fund's managing director.

Saudi involvement is vital to the success of the proposals aimed at finding the sufficient money to deal with the increasing demands placed on it from countries needing to borrow to cover balance-of-payments deficits.

A little-noticed remark by President Carter at the end of the Downing Street summit may indicate that the United States is prepared to consider any Saudi request.

The Saudis are thought to be saying that if the Western nations want to receive a substantial Saudi contribution there will have to be a rethink on the share-out of votes within the Fund to end the present situation where Saudi Arabia and the other rich members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries have practically no say.

Voting in the Fund is based on "quotas" and the OPEC nations have only 5 per cent. This is being increased to 10 per cent on the present round of quota revisions being ratified.

are being asked to put up funds effectively unrepresented.

Many European countries, such as Germany, accept that the present voting structure is anachronistic. The Germans feel that they themselves are underrepresented. But any attempt to link a revision of quotas with the scheme of Dr Witteveen, the managing director, could risk putting the next plan in jeopardy.

Countries which now have big quotas would have to lose some power.

One of the attractions to a number of western countries has been the prospect of getting Saudi money and a sense of Saudi involvement without the reality of Saudi control over where the money goes.

This is why the Witteveen

scheme is effectively sealed off from any voting participation by the Fund and why there have been assurances that the countries putting up cash would have equal rights in deciding who would get it.

This issue is of more than theoretical or ideological importance. The Saudis have indicated that they feel developing countries should be the recipients from any major new fund, while the West is worried about the range of countries on the fringe of the Mediterranean and some other semi-industrial nations which have made heavy borrowings.

Aid policies questioned, page 25

### Labour goes ahead with draft plan for state banks

By Our Political Correspondent

Although Mr Callaghan has told the Labour Party that he thinks a commitment to nationalise the banks and leading insurance companies would be an electoral "blow trox", the party's Home Policy Committee, of which Mr Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, is chairman, is pressing on with the preparation of a draft amendment. This could be included in Labour's next programme.

It is still based on the draft plan included in the conference resolution passed by the party conference last October, in spite of the hesitations and reservations voiced by the National Union of Bank Employees and workers in insurance companies. Mr Benn is now consulting them about the detailed proposals, and hopes to win them round.

According to party officials a document entitled *Policy on Banking and Finance*, which was submitted some time ago to the party's finance and economic affairs committee, is "out of date and no longer under discussion".

In this document, prepared by the party's own researchers, it was emphasised that the policy makers must take full account of the views of banking and insurance workers.

When the banks nationalisation plan was under discussion in October, the National Executive of the party recommended that there should be an amalgamation of the Giro and National Savings as the nucleus of a state bank. Mr Callaghan said he was ready to consider such a scheme.

This is still under discussion, but members of the home policy committee think that much more fundamental changes are required.

Paul Routledge writes: TUC leaders yesterday approved a plan to set up a top-level agency to channel state and private funds into manufacturing industry at the rate of £1,000m a year.

The proposal, disclosed in *Business News* yesterday, is contained in the union's submission of evidence to the Wilson Committee inquiring into the City. In a brief statement, the TUC said its influential Economic Committee had endorsed the submission, and would be presenting further evidence on the supervision, regulation and ownership of financial institutions "at a later stage".

The TUC's first bulky document for Sir Harold Wilson's consideration concentrates on the "priority issue" of funds for investment and urges the committee of inquiry to make an interim statement on the need for more capital for manufacturing.

Unions are looking for a tripartite Standing Committee on Finance for Investment, comprising Government, TUC and employers' representatives to direct cash from North Sea oil profits, the insurance companies and pension funds, into job-creating industry.

The TUC argues that the £1,000m for new energy should come from public and private sources, with "at least half" from the latter.

### Rome storm over state group break-up

From John Earle  
Rome, May 11

IRI and ENI, the Government announced it was allocating 150,000 lire (about £100m) this year and a total of 900,000 lire by 1982.

Now it has told parliament's budget commission that the operation will require 840,000 lire by the end of next March and a total estimated at 1,500,000 lire in coming years.

A government representative has indicated to members of parliament that the intention remains to give the International Monetary Fund accompanying the grant of a \$350m stand-by credit.

When it was decided last month to liquidate EGAM and divide its companies between

spokesman in parliament, commented in the business newspaper *24 Ore* that it was an absurd and incredible decision for the Government to treble an allocation for expenditure without going into the numerous obscure points surrounding the matter.

He said he believed the final cost of suppressing EGAM would be about 2,000,000 lire, adding sarcastically: "I'd like to see Dr Witteveen what purpose we are putting the IMF's money."

A Communist Party spokesman in the budget commission said the present minister, Signor Antonio Bisiglio, bore grave responsibility.

### How the markets moved

#### Falls

Air Distress 10p to 280p  
Beecham 8p to 432p  
Costain B 5p to 204p  
Dew G 7p to 165p  
EMI 5p to 231p  
Fisons 7p to 357p  
Globo 12p to 498p  
Harmony 13p to 325p  
Harrison Cros 12p to 565p  
Hawker Sidde 12p to 630p

Averys 51p to 156p  
18p to 944p  
Fisher J 6p to 123p  
Gibbs A 4p to 43p

Equities succumbed to profit taking.

Old-edged securities were wanted at the long end.

Dollar premium 120.75 per cent

(effective rate 45.18 per cent).

Sterling rose 5 pence to \$1.7195.

The "effective devaluation" rate was 61.8 per cent.

Gold was unchanged at \$147.875 per ounce.

SDR-5 was 1.16033 on Wednesday, while SDR-4 was 0.674728.

Commodities: Coffee prices again advanced. Reuter's index was at 1650.1 (previous 1631.8).

Reports pages 23 and 31

#### THE POUND

Invergordon 4p to 60p  
Lake & Elliott 3p to 45p  
Portals Higgs 8p to 196p  
Prov Fin Grp 6p to 80p  
Selection Int 10p to 440p  
Thorn Electric 10p to 282p  
Unilever 25p to 472p  
Uta Scientific 15p to 201p  
Old Dom Trust 3p to 27p  
Walker & Hawkes 16p to 161p

Oil Exploration 12p to 142p  
Phoenix Smk 11p to 103p  
Prop & Never 8p to 240p  
Solicitors Law 4p to 50p

Bank buys

Australia \$ 1.61 1.56

Austria Sch 30.25 28.25

Belgium Fr 64.25 61.25

Canada \$ 1.84 1.75

Denmark Kr 10.62 10.22

Finland Skk 7.20 6.92

France Fr 8.65 8.34

Germany Dm 4.25 4.03

Greece Dr 64.25 61.25

Hong Kong \$ 8.35 7.90

Italy Lr 1545.00 1490.00

Japan Yn 500.00 475.00

Netherlands Gld 4.42 4.20

Norway Kr 9.36 9.00

Portugal Esc 67.75 64.00

Afghan Rd 2.54 2.39

Spain Pes 121.75 113.29

Sweden Kr 7.77 7.42

Switzerland Ft 4.52 4.30

US \$ 1.76 1.71

Yugoslavia Dm 33.25 31.00

Rate for small denomination bank notes as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank. Interbank rates, foreign exchange rates and other foreign currency business.

Reports pages 23 and 31

Bank sells

Australia \$ 1.61 1.56

Belgium Fr 64.25 61.25

Canada \$ 1.84 1.75

Denmark Kr 10.62 10.22

Finland Skk 7.20 6.92

France Fr 8.65 8.34

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Netherlands Gld 4.42 4.20

Norway Kr 9.36 9.00

Portugal Esc 67.75 64.00

Afghan Rd 2.54 2.39

Spain Pes 121.75 113.29

Sweden Kr 7.77 7.42

Switzerland Ft 4.52 4.30

US \$ 1.76 1.71

Yugoslavia Dm 33.25 31.00

Rate for small denomination bank notes as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank. Interbank rates, foreign exchange rates and other foreign currency business.

Reports pages 23 and 31

Bank sells

Australia \$ 1.61 1.56

Belgium Fr 64.25 61.25

Canada \$ 1.84 1.75

Denmark Kr 10.62 10.22

Finland Skk 7.20 6.92

France Fr 8.65 8.34

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the 132nd Annual General Meeting of the Royal Insurance Company Limited, held on Wednesday, 11th May, in Liverpool, the Chairman Mr. Daniel Meinertzhagen made the following comments additional to his statement circulated with the Annual Report and Accounts.

As you will have seen, there was a substantial improvement in the underwriting results. Although conditions remained difficult in most parts of the world the underwriting loss in the United States was significantly reduced, Canada showed a marked improvement and Australia after the adverse results of recent years once more produced a profit. The United Kingdom incurred only a marginal underwriting loss in a year when the exceptional weather brought storm and subsidence claims totalling £12m just for private house property insurance. On behalf of stockholders I warmly congratulate everyone concerned, and particularly the management and staff, for what must, in the circumstances, be regarded as a considerable achievement. Much has yet to be done to restore underwriting profitability in some important areas but I can assure stockholders that we have within the Group the resolution and the skill necessary to achieve this objective.

The reduced underwriting loss combined with the increase in investment income yielded a net operating profit after taxation of over £50m and after the recommended final dividend some £28m is left for transfer to Retained Profits. This sounds, and indeed is, a very substantial sum but we must recognise that with the growth in premiums it was still not sufficient by itself to maintain the ratio of capital and free reserves to premium income at the previous year's level. With the help of substantial capital appreciation during the year our capital and free reserves rose to some £46m representing 42% of premium income and we are therefore still comfortably placed to finance further growth. Nevertheless, with market appreciation of the investment portfolio perhaps a less reliable factor than it used to be, the need is evident for insurers to be able to operate in an environment where they can earn and retain a more substantial margin of profit not only to keep up with inflation but to provide for future expansion in real terms.

Turning now to the current year, the figures for the 1st Quarter have just become available and are being released to the Press during the course of this meeting.

They show that we have made an encouraging start to the year with our total profit before tax increasing from £3.8m for the corresponding period a year ago to £27.4m now.

Investment income showed strong growth from £18.8m to £25.2m, with about a third of this growth being due to the effect of the fall in the value of sterling over the period and the correspondingly increased value to us of overseas income.

On the underwriting side we made a marginal profit of £1m as compared with a very substantial loss of £15.9m a year ago. As I told you at that time, approximately half of the £15.9m was attributable to exceptional storm damage, whereas this year we estimate that weather damage was, taking one country with another, reasonably normal so that there has been, in fact, some improvement in the underlying trend, which is pleasing.

During the quarter we suffered underwriting losses in the U.S.A. and the Netherlands but earned underwriting profits in the U.K., Canada, Australia and overall in the rest of Europe and the Other Overseas territories.

In the U.S.A. the underwriting loss was reduced from £10m to £6.3m. The reduction would have been greater but for the fall in the value of sterling. The operating ratio fell from 109.9% to 104.2% and we are seeing increasing benefit flowing through from the better terms achieved in all classes of business in the last two years.

There has been no improvement yet in the Netherlands, where market conditions remain very difficult. We continue, however, to press forward with our plans to correct this unsatisfactory position.

Although one quarter is too short a period to take as a guide to the likely result for the year as a whole, I do want to stress that our aim remains to make profits on underwriting itself, not merely from the point of view of maintaining our financial strength but also because by the very nature of our business we need to earn sufficient in times that are relatively free from catastrophes to balance out the other times when catastrophic losses are severe.

The Report and Accounts were adopted and the payment of the final dividend for the year was approved. The election and re-election of directors and the re-appointment of the auditors was also approved.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Directors, Management, Staff and Agents proposed by Lt-Col. J. M. Harrison and seconded by Mr R. W. Johnson.

### Estimated results for the three months ended 31st March, 1977

The estimated results for the three months ended 31st March, 1977, with comparative figures for the corresponding period in 1976 and for the full year 1976 are given below:

	3 months to 31 Mar 1977	3 months to 31 Mar 1976	Year 1976
	£m	£m	£m
<b>General Insurance:</b>			
Premiums Written .....	315.0	239.5	1,091.8
Underwriting Result:			
U.S.A. ....	-6.3	-10.0	-18.1
Elsewhere .....	7.3	5.9	0.3
.....	1.0	-15.9	-17.8
Long term insurance profits .....	0.4	0.4	1.7
Investment Income .....	25.2	18.8	92.4
Share of Associated Companies' profit ....	0.8	0.5	1.8
Total profit before taxation .....	27.4	3.8	78.1
Taxation .....	10.1	1.4	27.5
Minority Interests .....	0.1	0.0	0.4
Profit after taxation (p. per unit) .....	17.2 (11.4p)	2.4 (1.6p)	50.2 (33.5p)
The operating ratios for the U.S.A. on the U.K. bases are:-			
Claims as % of earned premiums .....	77.2	83.3	75.4
Expenses as % of written premiums .....	27.0	26.6	28.0
Operating ratio .....	104.2	109.9	103.4

### EXCHANGE RATES

In the above figures foreign currency has been converted according to our normal practice at approximately the average rates of exchange ruling during the period. The principal rates were:-

U.S.A. ....	\$1.71	\$2.00	\$1.80
Canada .....	\$1.76	\$1.99	\$1.78
Australia .....	\$1.57	\$1.59	\$1.48

The effect of the depreciation of sterling on the comparison of the first quarter results was to improve profit before taxation by about £2.2m. Investment income benefited by some £2.4m and the underwriting profit was adversely affected to the extent of £0.2m.

### LONG TERM INSURANCE

New business written in the first three months of the year with corresponding figures was:-

	3 months to 31 Mar 1977	3 months to 31 Mar 1976	Year 1976
	£m	£m	£m
<b>New life and annuity premiums:</b>			
Periodical premiums .....	3.7	3.9	17.0
Single premiums .....	6.9	3.7	14.9
.....	10.6	7.6	31.9
New sums assured .....	198.3	208.7	862.0
New annuities per annum .....	7.3	7.7	31.4

## Gateway ponders Green Shield switch

By Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

Gateway, the Bristol-based grocery chain which two years ago bought the Sperry and Hutchinson pink stamp operation in the United Kingdom, is considering a major switch to Green Shield stamps.

Trading stamps are continuing to prove a useful promotional tool for Gateway, but with the Tesco retailing chain about to give up 700 exclusive-area franchises for Green Shield, Gateway is considering whether to turn more to them, said Mr. Donald Lamb, Gateway's chief executive, yesterday.

Fourteen of Gateway's 95 stamp-giving stores already issue Green Shield. Not all of the rest which issue pink stamps would necessarily go over to Green Shield, if only because that would presumably raise the question of whether the pink stamp operation should be shut down, in turn threatening redundancies at Gateway.

Although the petrol price discount which has made this sector less attractive to trading stamp operators, Gateway still has nearly 400 garages, a substantial number of them in Scotland, issuing pink stamps. Recently the chain, which is now part of Linfield Holdings, has not gone out of its way to sell new pink franchises to garages.

A substantial number of the Green Shield franchises being freed by Tesco—representing about 20 per cent of Green Shield's business—could also go to retailing operations on Booker McConnell Group.

Booker McConnell, 119 of whose Budgen outlets in the South east already give Green Shield stamps, is particularly considering whether to add its 35 other Budgen outlets to the network.

But the 58 recently-acquired Murdoch Norton Rusts supermarkets, another South-east chain, are clearly another possibility for the introduction of stamps. It seems unlikely that Booker McConnell's other 74 non-food and butchery shops would be brought into the stamp operation.

International Stores, a subsidiary of BAT Industries, is continuing its talks with Green Shield on taking over about 100 Tesco franchises.

Green Shield said yesterday that if the Tesco changeover caused a "run on the bank" by stimulating the rate of gift redemptions as turnover declined, if only temporarily, there was ample provision by the company to cover the situation.

The redemption provision in 1975 was £31.5m and it is a standing policy of Green Shield always to have sufficient cash in reserve to cover the gift value of all stamps issued.

### Business appointments

## Directors for Bank of Scotland

Sir Richard Peace and Mr Angus Peiham Burn have been made directors of Bank of Scotland.

Mr. J. M. Payne has been elected deputy chairman of Bland Payne Reinsurance Brokers.

Mr. A. E. Brown is now a director of John Waddington.

Mr. David Abel, managing director of Leyland Special Products is the chairman of Aveling-Barford Manufacturing. Executive directors are Mr. Alan Cheetham, Mr. Fred Clem and Mr. Peter Durrant. Mr. Chris Barnham has joined the board as marketing director.

Mr. Michael Sharman has been appointed chairman of Chloride's European Industrial division.

Mr. David Rose-Beddoe has been elected president of Revlon Europe, Middle East and Africa. Mr. Ricardo Bunge, managing director of Revlon Argentina, becomes executive vice-president of Revlon Latin America.

Mr. A. E. Johnson becomes managing director of K-tel International (UK).

Mr. Masao Kamori has been selected as the next president of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to replace Mr. Gakuji Moriya, who will become the next chairman of the board.

Mr. P. G. H. Hedley-Dent has become a director of Bankers' Investment Trust.

Mr. Rod Stone has joined the board of Norden Communications.

Mr. R. H. Newham, a director of EMI Electronics, has been elected president of the Electronic Engineering Association and chairman of its council. He succeeds Mr. P. G. H. Hedley-Dent.

Mr. G. B. Kiddie has been made managing director of Firth Brown Castings.

Mr. Arthur Sumra has joined the board of Candy Friction.

Mr. David Sidebottom has been appointed a director of Nova Jersey Knot.

Mr. D. M. Goode has been made managing director of Colodene and Mr. A. L. Hammon sales director.

Miss Elizabeth Anderson has become a partner in Gitter & Co. Mr. P. O. Head has been appointed chairman of Amalgamated Industrial. Mr. A. I. Smith has retired from the board. Mr. Keith Cunningham has been appointed to the board as deputy chairman and Mr. Frank George becomes a director.

Mr. George Simpson has been made a director of Young Austin and Young.

Mr. Colin Daff and Mr. David Stoddart have joined the Charles Colson Group board.

Mr. James Fox, deputy managing director of Bolcom, has been named managing director. He succeeds Mr. Philip Bolcom, who has become managing director and chairman of the group's computer companies.

The following board changes have taken place within the Econa Group. Mr. D. E. Rogers had become managing director of Econa and chairman of all group subsidiary companies. Mr. R. L. Bishop has succeeded managing director, and Mr. G. R. Dunnings, deputy managing director, of J. S. Wright & Company. Mr. B. R. Lewis and Mr. F. Shaw have become directors of Econa Parkmatic. Mr. P. Haywood and Mr. W. P. have been appointed directors of Crompton Plastics. Mr. K. Ackroyd has joined the board of Fosler.

## Leyland dealer hits out at 'flood of approaches' from car importers

By Clifford Webb

Foreign car manufacturers are trying to take advantage of the present indecision over the future of Leyland Cars, by persuading distributors and dealers to desert the troubled state-controlled car group and switch to imported car franchises.

Caffyns, Leyland's biggest distributor in Sussex and Kent, yesterday reported "an absolute flood of approaches" during the past few months. It is alarmed by the importers' tactics that it is planning to take full-page advertisements in local newspapers to name the most persistent importers involved.

Mr. Alan Caffyn, managing director (sales), said: "We have not been naming Fiat, Renault, Datsun, BMW and Toyota. These are the people who have committed their offers to paper, but we could name many more."

"We have about 100 retail dealerships of whom we own about half. We have just lost two dealers, one of them to Peugeot."

Last night, importers denied that they were trying to cash in on Leyland's troubles. A spokesman for Fiat UK said:

"We have about 340 outlets. We plan to increase this to some 415, but the additional dealerships will have to be of the highest possible quality. That means they can only come from some other franchise, including Leyland. But to suggest that we are mounting a concentrated attack on them is just not true."

Renault said: "We have not made a specific plan to try to attract Leyland distributors and dealers. The only approaches we are making are part of our normal marketing strategy."

A Leyland Cars spokesman said: "Since December 1 we have lost 99 outlets, of which 41 were planned terminations. The surprising thing is that although there has been a lot of pressure on our network to desert so few have, in fact, left us. At the same time we have a long queue of people waiting to sign up available franchises."

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## Community poised to float \$500m loan

Brussels, May 11.—Arrangements for a \$500m funding effort on the international capital market by the European Economic Community are likely to be finalized by the end of May or early June.

The funds are to be made available to Italy as a Community contribution to replace Britain's contribution to a medium-term EEC loan to Italy from which Britain withdrew in 1973.

The EEC Commission is still sounding the market for the best conditions and has not yet charged any single bank or banking group to manage the Community issue.

Among the

# Immunity ed to servicing overseas \$500 debts costing Britain \$1,300m a year

May 11.—A \$500m loan by the International Monetary Fund to Britain's public sector now stands at \$22,200m (£12,900m) and its overseas creditors demand \$1,300m a year on servicing these debts, at current rates of interest.

Most of them, which are due to be repaid in the Treasury's annual Economic Progress Report, have to be repaid by June. In 1979 the annual amount due for repayment begins to rise rapidly, reaching a peak in 1981. The table sets out the pattern of repayments up to 1986.

Loans from the International Monetary Fund, which totalled £20m on April 1, can be paid back within three to five years. Drawings on the credit lines and three to seven years for those on the oil facility. It is assumed that the repayments will end even though the debts have yet to be arranged.

between the Government and the IMF.

Government debts account for over half of the total outstanding at \$11,500m. Overseas loans in local currencies nationalised industries and other public bodies such as the Water Council account for the other \$10,700m, most of which was raised under the exchange cover scheme.

This covers borrowers against alterations in the exchange rate, which have greatly increased the sterling value of the loans, as most were taken out before last year's plunge in the value of the pound.

Not all of the government loans arranged recently have yet been drawn. The \$22,200m total excludes \$11,000m of the \$3,900m IMF loan arranged in December, and \$500m of the Eurodollar loan raised at the beginning of this year. These amounts are expected to exceed the repayments due in the year.

Most of the government debt is to the IMF and other governments, including \$4,700m of long-term loans, mainly to the United States and Canada, which were arranged soon after the end of the Second World War.

Indeed it was on the rosy future promised by the North Sea discoveries that the Government was able to raise such large overseas loans, and it will be with the payments surpluses

SCHEDULED REPAYMENT OF FOREIGN CURRENCY DEBT OF THE UK PUBLIC SECTOR 1977-1986										
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
\$ billion										
HMG \$2.5 billion loan	—	—	—	—	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	—	—
HMG \$1.5 billion loan*	—	—	—	—	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	—	—
IMF—oil facility	—	—	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	—	—	—
May 1976 drawing on 1st credit tranche	—	—	0.2	0.4	0.2	—	—	—	—	—
January 1977 drawing on \$3.8 billion standby	—	—	—	0.4	0.6	0.1	—	—	—	—
Foreign currency bonds	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Borrowing by other public sector bodies	0.0	0.7	1.7	2.0	2.7	1.6	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.1
<b>TOTALS</b>	0.2	0.8	2.4	3.2	4.7	3.2	2.0	2.0	0.3	0.3

Drawings up to end-March 1977 only.

Individual items may not add up to total because of roundings.

## ECSC loan of £53m for Italian steelmaker

Brussels, May 11.—A loan of 80,000m lire (about £53m) to Acciaierie di Piombino, an Italian steel company, has been granted by the European Economic Commission from funds of the European Coal and Steel Community, the Commission announced here today. Terms of the loan were not disclosed. But a spokesman said they would be in accordance with the usual ECSC disbursements.

The funds are to contribute to financing a major modernisation programme at Piombino, especially the streamlining of casting installations.

### Belgian steel decline

Brussels, May 11.—Belgian crude steel production last month dropped 16.5 per cent on March and 23.3 per cent over the year, according to the Steel Industry Federation. Output totalled 902,000 metric tons.

# Aquascutum

Makers of fine clothing for men and women since 1851.

Highlights from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Gerald M. Abraham, C.B.E., for the year ended 31st January 1977.

■ Earnings up 43% at £1,710,074—the highest ever.

■ Dividend up 10% to 1.3656p per 5p share.

■ Sales to overseas customers responsible for growth in turnover and profit.

■ Overseas trade now 64% of turnover—up 51% at £12 million.

■ New year started well—prospects are good.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, Aquascutum and Associated Companies Ltd., 100 Regent Street, London W1A 2AQ.

## American policies on international aid questioned by bankers

in Frank Vogl  
Economic Correspondent  
Washington, May 11

An increasing number of American commercial bankers now believe that official international efforts at meeting the needs of countries in serious balance of payments problems are inadequate. Critical international difficulties could therefore develop more long.

They assert that governments continuing to rely too heavily on international commercial bank lending.

They argue that immediate banking should be taken firmly established two special credit lines which have long been under discussion.

They believe that the establishment of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's proposed \$25,000m "debt-servicing" (about £14,500m) would serve to strengthen general confidence. It should not be viewed as an alternative to new International Monetary Fund facility, they argue.

In addition, they contend the new IMF facility, which Dr. Johannes Wintewisch, fund's managing director, is to establish with a volume of about \$16,500m, should swiftly created and ended.

The chairman of one of America's largest banks, who does not want his name published, said: "The commercial banks have been bailing out the international monetary system the last three years and they do not do much longer." These comments, the bankers say, have been bluntly made recent private conversations between government leaders and officials and have, at least some sympathy from Dr. Wintewisch, the Federal Reserve chairman.

He comments: "We are being attacked at a time when the banks feel under attack because what they call 'public misadventures' about their foreign loans, when they feel risks in making foreign loans may well be increasing use of delays in strength the IMF's resources and some rash American policy decisions."

Comments come at a time there is also mounting tension over the way in which Arabia, in particular, is to invest its vast cash. Last week Sheikh Ahmad Abu al-Khalil, the

chairman of one of America's largest banks, who does not want his name published, said: "The commercial banks have been bailing out the international monetary system the last three years and they do not do much longer."

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## Telegram plea to ease scrap export curbs

A survival of some of its farcical scrap controls depends on a relaxation of export restrictions, the Scrap Federation said in a telegram yesterday to Mr. Leslie Brook, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Trade.

At a annual conference of the Association of Scrap Dealers at Torquay, Mr. Brook told several previous attempts to persuade the minister to allow more scrap exported to countries outside the EEC had apparently failed.

Henry Brook, federation president, said that the state of the scrap industry in Britain is "desperate" with negligible markets both here or within the community. Permission was only needed to give merchants the chance to find an alternative market, even for some higher grades of scrap, which are not normally exported in quantity.

His report to the conference Mr. Brook said 1976 had dubious distinction of being the first year since 1961 in which scrap imports exceeded exports in both tonnages and value. The federation was

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At a annual conference of the Association of Scrap Dealers at Torquay, Mr. Brook told several previous attempts to persuade the minister to allow more scrap exported to countries outside the EEC had apparently failed.

Henry Brook, federation president, said that the state of the scrap industry in Britain is "desperate" with negligible markets both here or within the community. Permission was only needed to give merchants the chance to find an alternative market, even for some higher grades of scrap, which are not normally

Conference warned over dangers in maintaining world overcapacity

## Plea for joint European ship policies

From Peter Hill  
Oslo, May 11

Unless European governments evolve a harmonized maritime policy—involving some measure of flag protection—the face of European shipbuilding will be unrecognizable within five years.

Mr Graham Day, former chief executive-designate of British Shipbuilders, the new state shipbuilding corporation, gave this stark warning here today.

At worst, European shipbuilding would gallop off in several directions at the same time. At best, a degree of harmonization might be achieved, he said.

World shipbuilding capacity must be cut back—demand for new ships over the next few years will be about one third of recent output levels—if the industry was ever to return to both stability and viability.

## NCB sees technology export boost

By Kenneth Owen  
Technology Correspondent

New electronics technology applied to the coal industry could lead to a substantial "spin-off" in overseas business.

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, said last night:

"Speaking at the annual dinner of the Electronic Engineering Association, Sir Derek said: 'In the coal industry our own need is to make another leap forward in our productivity performance. Having reached total mechanization, we are now seeking hard to extend remote control and automatic operations.'

"The next steps in mining processes promise almost limitless opportunities for technology of many kinds. Among them, electronics must be foremost."

Mr P. E. G. Bates of Plessey, who is president of the association, said the industry's total output for 1976 amounted to £14,400m: an increase of 28 per cent over 1975. Of this total about 42 per cent was directly exported, and the radio, radar, and other electronics capital goods sector had a positive trade balance of £206m.

Mr Bates said: "We are concerned at the growing number of voices which seem to be advocating a 'free-for-all' when the present pay policy ends in July."

As for the Bullock report, Mr Bates said that the EEA fully supported the CBI approach.

Mr Ronald Newham, of EMI Electronics, succeeds Mr Bates as EEA president for 1977-78.

Sporadic government involvement in the European industry had been adequate to keep the industry in being until recently, but this was no longer good enough, he said. Mr Day, who was addressing the Nor-Shipping '77 conference made it clear that he was against governments adopting "survival of the fittest" policies. In Europe it would almost certainly result in the survival of very few companies.

The key must be the ensured employment of some base level of shipyard capacity. Hopefully, efforts would be concentrated on preserving the best units, and providing a constant level of capital expenditure so as to guarantee a future," Mr Day said.

Fighting for the few orders that would be available over the next three to five years through subsidies and other financial incentives would be

less effective and more costly than developing a semi-protected home market, the vessels for which could be built in Europe.

Other nations, he argued, supported in whole or in part some degree of flag protection. In consultation with European shipowners it should be possible to formalize what increasingly appeared to be a current practice. This would, at least, provide a stable base for European shipbuilding.

Failure to harmonize policies would lead to the disappearance of more companies than was necessary and the adverse impact on those employed directly in the yards and in the supply industries would be much greater.

Support for rationalization of the industry was given by Mr Otto Norland, executive director of Hambros Bank, who told

the conference that maintenance of artificially high levels of yard capacities by governments would defer indefinitely the day when a genuine recovery in the building market would occur.

Mr Norland criticized Government policies which involved the financing of ships built on a speculative basis. He gave a warning that if these policies continued commercial financing institutions would have to reconsider their attitudes towards the shipping and shipbuilding industries.

"With each new ship built on uncommercial terms and for which there is no genuine demand, the return to a reasonably balanced supply and demand position in shipping is deferred a little longer and the cost to governments of continuing to support surplus shipyards is increased," he said.

## In brief

### OECD will examine world steel problems

The council of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development agreed in principle yesterday to set up an informal working group to investigate problems in the world's steel industry.—AP—Dow Jones reports from Paris.

Proposals to set up the panel were made by the United States last week, after the completion of a study commissioned by the American Iron and Steel Institute which recommended, among other things, multilateral

negotiations to manage the steel industries of the nation employing over two million people, and it is quite certain that no other group of people would have tolerated this position for so long.

May I once again appeal through your column for the unfair specific discrimination to be removed. Yours faithfully, DENIS DODDS, Chairman, Association of Members of State Industry Boards, c/o Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

ence our members have been selected to manage the steel industries of the nation employing over two million people, and it is quite certain that no other group of people would have tolerated this position for so long.

May I once again appeal through your column for the unfair specific discrimination to be removed. Yours faithfully, DENIS DODDS, Chairman, Association of Members of State Industry Boards, c/o Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR.

only elementary justice in asking for the removal of the specific discrimination to which you refer.

May I stress two points in particular.

1. In many instances full-time board members now receive up to £3,000 per annum less than staff responsible to them, whose negotiated salaries have not been affected.

2. The Government have already stated that increases could be given without contravening current income policy.

This organization welcomes this independent confirmation of the intolerable unfairness of the present situation and seeks

in treatment. We simply ask that a particular discrimination against our members be removed. Because of their experi-

## Creating the environment for new enterprises

From Mr K. Swan

Sir, In your report on the Investigation into salaries in nationalised industries (May 6), you emphasized that members of public boards can rightly feel a sense of gross injustice since there has been specific Government discrimination against them. This is in contrast with other groups covered by the Top Salaries Review Body, such as the judiciary, senior ranks of the armed forces and senior civil servants, who received increases.

This organization welcomes

this independent confirmation of the intolerable unfairness of the present situation and seeks

in treatment. We simply ask that a particular discrimination against our members be removed. Because of their experi-

## Building society interest rates

From Mr David King

Sir, Mr C. R. Tew is right of course, when he suggests the 11½ per cent nominal building society rate represents a noticeably higher effective (true) rate of interest. When monthly repayments over a 25-year term the true yearly rate is 12.09 per cent.

The building society way with such figures is entirely their own, but I feel that any criticism lies merely in not quoting the true rate. It would be unrealistic to expect societies to lend at a true 11½ per cent. Presumably, they would at once move into financial problems.

I believe that the societies are well aware that the habitually quoted type of rate is not actuarially precise—but the societies have never said that they are. Anyway, the point is academic, as most people are unable to borrow or less than a building society rate, however loosely it is quoted.

To my mind, the societies place themselves in a much more invidious position when they advertise to lenders "7½ per cent equals 12 per cent where tax is paid at standard rate". This statement is true only for the first year of lending. After, say 10 years the average yearly "grossed up" rate to a lender has fallen to 10.53 per cent because of the compounding effect. This is an area where rules really should be applied, I feel. I believe that government borrowing advertisements (eg. National Savings) no longer appear in this form.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN TUCKER,  
20 Station Road,  
Beaconsfield,  
Buckinghamshire.  
May 6.

May 3.

## PO profits

From Mr John Tucker

Sir, Although under the price legislation, the Post Office is obliged to find means of returning its excess profits to those who helped to create them, the method it has adopted will not in fact do so.

Many of us who have recently withdrawn from the service will not be recompensed whilst those who are now having phones installed will receive credits to which they are not entitled.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN TUCKER,  
20 Station Road,  
Beaconsfield,  
Buckinghamshire.  
May 6.

May 3.

## £100m ammonia plant project shelved

Plans by two Scandinavian companies to build a 360,000-tonnes-a-year ammonia plant at Peterhead, in Aberdeenshire, have been shelved indefinitely.

Norsk Hydro of Norway and the Swedish company Supra, operating through a joint subsidiary, Scanitro, had been planning to use gas from the rig field for the plant, which could cost up to £100m.

The two main conclusions of the report emphasize the need for both British and West German Governments to make extensive changes in the taxation system and for both governments to channel more of their research and development spending into small technology based firms.

However, perhaps of equal importance are the comments and observations of the respondents in both countries. It is considered that both educational systems are becoming increasingly anti-business, in the United Kingdom there is an atmosphere which is "against enterprise". In both countries, ingenuity, initiative and entrepreneurial risk are undervalued.

Contrast these attitudes with

the approaches being currently

used by the manufacturers of new generation of modern industries which are needed to provide future employment and exports—the value of N.T.B.F.s in maintaining a competitive environment in the face of the increasing power of major corporations.

The accounting freedom

An interim directive permitting qualified accountants to practise throughout the European Community has been suggested by the EEC accountants' study group (Groupe d'Etudes).

The directive excludes the carrying out of statutory audits,

which is being dealt with in proposals expected to be published later this year.

## The Awards

The awards will follow the 1976 pattern, namely

- The Grand Prix, to be held for one year, awarded to the entrant whose advertisement is, in the opinion of the judges, the best submitted, irrespective of category. The Grand Prix consists of a silver trophy, specially designed for The Times by Gordon Hodgson.
- First, second and third prizes for category winners. Awards will be made both to the winning advertiser and agent.

### The Panel of Judges

The Awards will be made by an independent panel of judges, selected for their understanding of this specialised form of communication.

They will judge entries in accordance with the following criteria. An advertisement of a company's results, whether the Chairman's statement is or is not included in full or in abridged form, should:

- Attract the eye, by virtue of its design.
- Be easy to read, by the use of skilful typography.

c) Contain such information as prospective investors or professional advisers are likely to require, including details of the business carried on by the company.

d) Include, at the option of the advertiser, such illustrations, graphs, or diagrams as may be necessary to supplement (c) above.

e) Leave the reader with the impression that the company concerned would be a good one to do business with, to work for, or to invest in.

Note: In the case of the categories 'Interim Results' or 'Preliminary Figures', only criteria (a) to (d) will apply.

## Conditions of Entry

All entries are free, but must have appeared in the pages of The Times Business News during 1977.

The following are the categories in which awards will be made:

- Annual Results.
- Colour or Black and White. Half page or larger, or equivalent.
- Colour or Black and White. Less than half page or equivalent.

### 2. Interim Results or Preliminary Figures.

Colour or Black and White (All sizes).

### 3. Judges' Special Award.

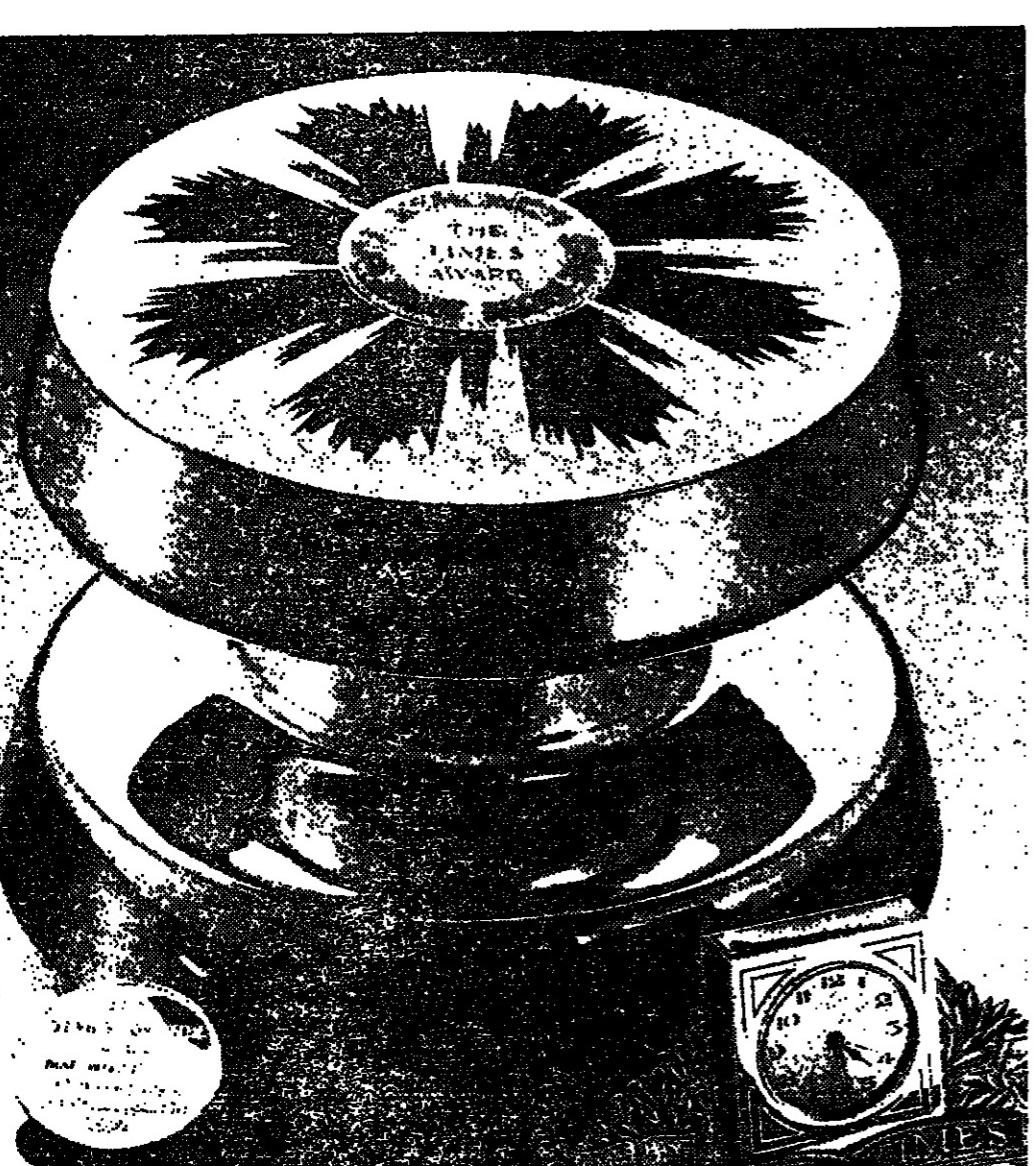
The judges will have the option of making, at their absolute discretion, a special award. Details of the criteria for this award will be announced at a later date.

Entries will be accepted throughout the twelve month period January 1st-December 31st 1977, and should take the form of art pulls mounted on board, with a clear indication of the category in which they are to be judged. Six unmounted art pulls should also be provided for the use of the Award Judges. They should be sent to:

Michael Mander, Advertisement and Marketing Director, The Times Awards, The Times, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Tel: 01-837 1234.

Presentation of the awards will be made early in 1978.

**THE TIMES  
BUSINESS NEWS**



As The Times Awards for the best advertisement of a company's results have aroused such considerable interest since their introduction in 1974, the competition now enters its fourth year during 1977.

The categories in which awards will be made are listed alongside. The conditions of entry remain unchanged.

## THE TIMES AWARDS FOR THE BEST ADVERTISEMENT OF A COMPANY'S RESULTS FOR 1977.

### The Awards

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Testing the rules on insider trading

our members  
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and Rep  
of U.K.  
H.R.

markets—spawns countless rumours and the latest upsurge has been an exception with corporate finance tremors of many merchant apparently at full stretch potential takeover deals. That kind of heady climate month's Stock Exchange over Panal initiative to curb insider dealing during approaches has come particularly tricky juncture. In so far, the initiative has led out some admissions bid talks are in progress to date can claim one hit a near miss. On Tuesday, d to have its shares suspended at some three-fifths of subsequent bid terms. On other hand Storey Brothers are to have been taken over off the market by the uncoupling of bid talk led some way behind last jump in the shares.

There have been signs of unward pressure on the market since the publication of Panel's annual statement. Panel is actually enough to make a real impact on the success or failure of the move.

couple the humus year of 1976, or not. The Stock Exchange and Panel are taking responsibilities seriously only come when they decide to censure publicly a learnt company.

ven their past record and constraints they have to within not too much faith be placed there. The snag is while the majority of panel may be quite willing the line the new powers only be adjudged effective by control the sort of erick companies that have id the authorizes with so y headaches in the past.

present the main weakness to lie in the fact that lification of a bid is the responsibility of the target company while there are several places in the pipeline which could be partly responsible for the new powers if the present rules were ended to the bidder as well.

ough that is an even more acute area to police given many takeovers start as no than a gleam in the eye he board and the point at an idea becomes a serious bid is likely to be a mine for interpretation.

hat the Panel is looking at aspects not in the interests outsiders still need to see in rest cases to prove their territories have any rea

Lord Inchape, chairman of P & O, big cut in capital spending

duced an underwriting surplus in other European accounts. Canada has been around and the American underwriting surplus has been maintained.

At home last year's non-recourse firm sure damage charge accounts for much of the improvement although sub-

sidence claims of £125m in the three months underline the continuing problems facing the whole industry on domestic accounts.

Subsidence cost Royal £7.5m last year and with claims still flowing in the group joins CU in saying that subsidence could well involve catastrophe scale claims this year as well. A £500,000 charge covers Royal's exposure to claims from the Tenerife air crash.

Investment income of £25.2m boosted £2.4m by exchange rate translation shows an underlying 21 per cent growth on the corresponding period last year but is marginally down on 1976's fourth quarter.

At 35p and yielding 6.3 per cent in line with the rest of the sector Royal's shares are only indirectly affected by the market's current indecision in this area caused by underwriting the recent Prudential and Commercial Union losses. As it rides the upturn in the United States underwriting trends are likely to make effect on continued scope for earnings appeal.

First quarter 1977 (1976) Capitalization £55m Premium income £31.5m Pre-tax profit £27.4m (£2.5m)

Overseas bids

Borrowing  
AERICA

Boys' £14.5m cash acquisition of the Rucker Pharmaceutical Company, following as it does, close on Beecham's larger bids, illustrates the growing trend among UK companies of buying into the United States.

Why the United States should have become so attractive all of sudden is not entirely clear. Special factors can be advanced for most acquisitions when taken on their own. Babcock & Wilcox, for instance, had the success of the sale of its stake in Deutsche Babcock to spend in foreign currencies and the same size of the available stakes—£31.7m—possibly cut down the alternatives.

Racial's hand was forced in making a full offer for Milgo because of the opposition of Applied Digital and the US electrical manufacturer. But taken altogether and with a long list of companies from Unicorn Industries to Turner and Newall,

wanting to cross the Atlantic, the United States attractions are wider than can be explained by occasional special situations.

The surprising aspect of the new wave of investment perhaps is that it has taken place since the well-publicised anti-trust problems which IOC International has run into with its plan for Alcoa, but that has proved a rather isolated case of transnational interference by the American authorities which many companies feel contrasts oddly with the continued imposition of price control, wage controls and monopolies legislation in the United Kingdom.

Boots, for instance, has twice been prevented from following its chosen course by the Monopolies Commission first in its decision to merge with Glaxo, and then to take over House of Fraser. The arguments for going abroad for other companies have been uncontroversial as a strong United Kingdom economy has coincided with increased government intervention in their affairs. To say that the United States is seen as the last bastion of free enterprise as well as the largest market in the Western world is perhaps simplistic, but it is the way many companies see it.

The advantages of language, culture and easy conversion of the dollar, not to mention the difficulties that many businesses have found in expanding in Europe, are likely to increase rather than lessen the trend to America in coming months, despite the difficulty of having to borrow to avoid paying the investment premium.

The study has been undertaken independently from that of the White House, which formed the basis of President Carter's recent proposals. The forecasts are clearer than those made by the President and, to some extent, are more alarming.

The study involved predictions to the year 2000, while the President's programme dealt almost exclusively with the period to 1985.

The Commerce Department's forecasts are likely to be viewed as too optimistic by many experts, as they are based on the assumption that energy consumption in the United States will grow in the next 20 years at roughly 2 per cent a year, which is about half the rate of the last five years. Halving the rate of energy consumption to about 2 per cent a year is a key aim of the President's programme.

The most dramatic conclusion is that the forecasts suggest a potential disparity in the transportation sector as the year 2000 approaches". It adds that it will be critically important for the motor industry to start producing non-petrol-using, highly efficient cars (probably electric cars) by the late 1980s and the failure to achieve this will force radical changes in American transport habits.

The report says that total United States energy consumption, which amounted to 35.2 million barrels of oil equivalent per day in 1976, is likely to reach 41.3 million in 1985 and 48.4 million in 2000. The forecast is based on the expectation that conservation efforts and substitution of oil and gas by coal and nuclear power can produce savings of 11.4 million barrels of oil equivalent per day in 1985 and nearly 32 million at the end of this century.

The report points out that United States oil production will fall from about 10 million barrels daily in 1985 to no more than 6.2 million barrels daily by the year 2000. Thus imports will continue to run at 45 to 50 per cent of American needs.

Domestic natural gas production is also seen as falling. The most important effect of all this is that there will be no choice other than a massive programme of coal and nuclear power expansion.

Electricity will account for more than half of energy consumption by the end of the century and electrical requirements in 1985 will necessitate the construction of 129 new 1,100-megawatt power plants.

Another 545 will have to be built in the last 15 years of this century—making an average of one every 12 days from now to the year 2000.

## 'A power station every 12 days'—the US need

United States production of petroleum, together with imports, will not suffice to meet American demands by the year 2000. A new Department of Commerce report says that by then some 26 million cars will have to be powered by something other than petrol, or alternative means of transport will have to be provided.

The report, prepared by a special energy task force at the Commerce Department, indicates that President Carter's new energy proposals are no more than the absolute minimum requirements if the United States is to avoid a grave energy crisis. It stresses that not only will there have to be dramatic efforts to conserve energy and to use more coal and nuclear power, but meeting the coming energy challenges "will pose a serious test of the existing institutional structure for handling capital funding and environmental procedures".

The report notes, for example, that capital requirements for electrical generating capacity alone will by the end of the century total almost \$500,000m. So vast will the expansion of coal output and nuclear power production have to be that the public sector will evidently sides with leaders of these industries who suggest that present environmental standards may have to be reduced and environmental approval procedures greatly speeded up.

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Frank Vogl

## Business Diary: Sir Ivor bales out • G'day Bill

Civil Aviation Authority  
to have lost Nigel  
Treasurer that retired  
from the Board of  
National Air Transport  
Services.

All seemed well until the Treasury intervened. They ruled that in such circumstances, as Sir Ivor's salary would have to be "frozen" by the amount of his pension which in Sir Ivor's case will be £725, which would mean that he would be paid £6,725.

This sum, Sir Ivor apparently feels, is not quite enough for being chief executive of a government body responsible for the smooth running of all British aviation including airline licensing, air traffic control and safety.

He is now off to take up one of the better-paid consultancy and part-time job offers that have been coming in from the industry since his impending retirement became known. Foulkes is presumably still looking for a deputy chairman.

**Undeterred gent**  
Sir Ivor, an Australian yes, yesterday became the first exception to that curious Unilever by a competitor. Mike Little, now with the group's Brazilian detergent operation before returning to Australia in more than 70 countries and

selling in at least 100 more had only Europeans on the board.

Mann, a detergents marketing specialist succeeds Tony Hill as detergents' coordinator at the Unilever board. Hill is moving to another board job, responsibility for United Kingdom companies.

All board members of the Anglo-Dutch group are either from the Netherlands or the British Isles. It was considered a breakthrough when, three years ago, Norwegian-born Oscar Strugstad was elected a director responsible for overseas companies.

Mann will be succeeded as chairman of Australian Unilever by a competitor, Mike Little, now with the group's Brazilian detergent operation. Before returning to Australia in more than 70 countries and

1975 Mann, who is 52, had been in London as deputy detergent coordinator.

David Orr, Unilever's chairman, is said to be rather tickled that the board has been further "internationalized", but Mann was elected because he knows about detergents rather than because he is neither Anglo nor Dutch.

Incidentally, he told Business Diary yesterday that the Australians are the world's biggest users of toilet soaps and toothpaste—but not of soap powders. That may be, he said, because living in the world's least industrialized rich country their clothes don't get as dirty.

**Daybreak**  
Little has been heard of Graham Day since the end of last year when the bearded Canadian quit as chief executive-designate of British Shipbuilders in protest at the delays in establishing the new nationalized concern.

Business Diary, however, sighted Day in Oslo yesterday at an international shipping conference. Day, we can reveal, now knows his plans—and they do not seem to include the United Kingdom and he appears to have no regrets about his decision.

He told us that when he leaves us for his home in Nova Scotia, it will be to take up a professorship in business studies at the University of Dalhousie, Halifax.

This does not, however, mean a break with the sea and ships. Day is establishing a maritime consultancy, Sedna (named after the Eskimo goddess of the briny), an apparently has some projects in the works already.

Day's successor, Michael Casey, is also in Oslo for the Nor-Shipping exhibition and conference fresh from a selling sortie in Nigeria, as is his chairman-designate, Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin.

The British, and many other nations, are putting on a big show—so much so, in fact, that although the shipping business is in the doldrums more exhibitors wanted to show in the Norwegian capital than there was space.

**It's no cert**  
John Edwards sent a shiver down the corporate spine of a brewery, an insurance company and a bunny club yesterday.

Edwards is the certification officer of the Certification Office for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations. He has refused certificates of independence to the staff associations of the Carlsberg brewery, the Playboy Club, and the United Friendly Insurance Company—although not, let it be

said, to the Skipton and District Powerloom Overlookers' Association.

Firms whose staff associations are unable to convince Edwards or the Employment Appeal Tribunal that they are free of management control make attractive targets for outside unions hungry for recruits.

Without a certificate it is impossible to invoke the Employment Protection Act on behalf of members, a point that may be driven home by the likes of the Transport & General or the National Union of British Employees.

Edwards, a former under-secretary at the Department of Employment, refuses about one in eight applications. Only one staff association, the Blue Circle, has appealed and the judge upheld Edwards' ruling.

**Business Diary's jargon of the week** award goes to a piece of deadly prose which, perhaps appropriately, comes from the second National Work Processing Exhibition and Conference, which the Business Equipment Trade Association has been holding in London this week. Certain equipment, a BETA announcement says, increases productivity or attracts tax concessions that it's relatively rapid viability attainment. We take this to mean it soon pays for itself.

## Peter Norman takes stock of the Crédit Suisse affair

## Unanswered questions in Chiasso

The resignation on Tuesday night of Dr Heinz Wuffli from his position as president of the general management of the Crédit Suisse effectively marks the end of the first act.

It was then that the bank disclosed it would incur heavy losses because of unauthorized activities on the part of its branch in Chiasso.

But the departure of Dr Wuffli, who goes with his personal integrity and honour intact, is not the end of the story.

The Crédit Suisse affair will probably not last for months, if not years, in much the same way as did the Herstatt failure of 1974 and the saga of the losses at the Hessische Landesbank in Germany.

The report, prepared by a special energy task force at the Commerce Department, indicates that President Carter's new energy proposals are no more than the absolute minimum requirements if the United States is to avoid a grave energy crisis.

It stresses that not only will there have to be dramatic efforts to conserve energy and to use more coal and nuclear power, but meeting the coming energy challenges "will pose a serious test of the existing institutional structure for handling capital funding and environmental procedures".

The report notes, for example, that capital requirements for electrical generating capacity alone will by the end of the century total almost \$500,000m.

So vast will the expansion of coal output and nuclear power have to be that the public sector will

recently belonged to the upper levels of the Crédit Suisse's management.

The assets of this company, consisting mainly of the Italian Winewood, Albarola Mare and Amigas groups, are now under the control of the Crédit Suisse and should help one day to lessen the bank's final losses.

But the Liechtenstein authorities are still unable to determine who owns the group.

It is understood that they are investigating the possibility of links between Texon and the Crédit Suisse. The questions being asked are whether Texon was an "illegitimate" offspring of the Crédit Suisse branch management to carry out illegal bank transactions or, more seriously, whether anyone in the Crédit Suisse's Zurich headquarters was aware of the links between Chiasso and Texon in the years since the latter's foundation in 1961.

On the board of Texon were the three lawyers, Dr Alessandro Villa, Dr Elio Gada and Alfredo Noseda of the Chiasso branch who is at present in investigation custody.

Last weekend the public prosecutor in Lugano instituted proceedings against the three Texon managers.

But there are still several unanswered questions arising from the alleged misappropriation of some 2,200m francs by Dr Wuffli, who goes with his personal gain and despite the westerly of press coverage on the affair he has not yet been portrayed as a man of overt extravagance.

The resignation of Dr Wuffli, a lawyer general manager of the Crédit Suisse and the decision of Herr Felix Schulthess to renounce his position of honorary chairman of the bank should still the public's appetite for seeing heads roll in what is undoubtedly the most serious banking scandal in Switzerland since the Second World War.

But there are still several

investigations, is clearly woefully inadequate to police an industry where the bank's accumulated balance-sheets totals are more than twice the size of the country's annual gross national product.

It is still too early to determine whether the attractions of Switzerland as a financial centre will suffer irreparably from the Crédit Suisse affair.

Last week local bankers were simply relieved that it was one of the "big three" Zurich banks that had been caught in the affair, any were suggesting that after a period of perhaps six months it would be "business as usual". In Zurich there was more uncertainty and to an outsider the image of

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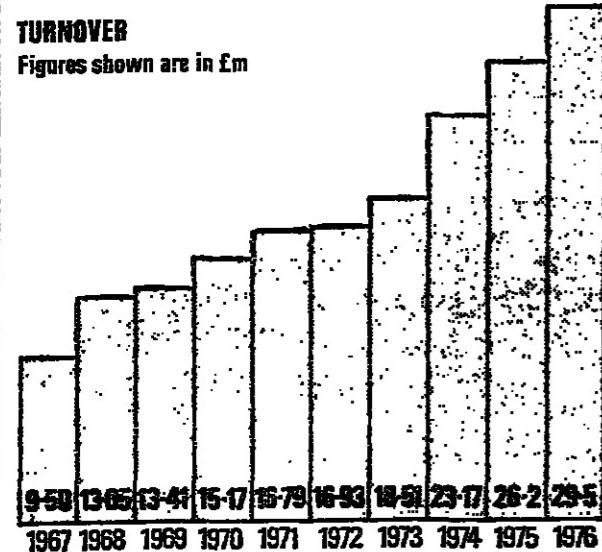
DICTOGRAPH TELEPHONES LIMITED

OPERATING TR SERVICES

## Record Group Results for 1976

### TURNOVER

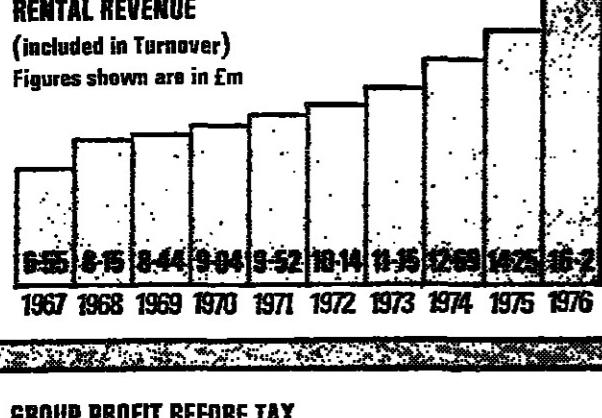
Figures shown are in £m



### RENTAL REVENUE

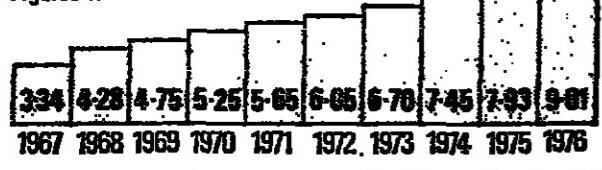
(Included in Turnover)

Figures shown are in £m



### GROUP PROFIT BEFORE TAX

Figures shown are in £m



Mr. E. H. Cooper, the Chairman, reports:

\* Group Profits for 1976 after Depreciation and Relocation Expenses of £202,949 but before Taxation were £9,012,854 which are again a record and show an increase of 13.6% over the previous year.

\* Directors recommend an increased Final Dividend of 15.4% (14%) making a total for 1976 of 20.9% (19%).

\* New rentals taken showed a useful increase over 1975's record results. New sale business did not match the high figures secured in that year, mainly due to a fall-off in orders secured in the U.K. Group turnover once again showed a substantial improvement from £26,199,626 in 1975 to £29,496,798 including an increase of £1,953,880 in rents receivable.

### Future Prospects

\* Whilst, in present conditions, our Overseas interests are unlikely to show any marked improvement over their results for 1976, a slow but steady improvement in trading conditions in the United Kingdom is already becoming apparent. New rental business taken by the Group for the first quarter of the year is substantially ahead of that secured for the same period in 1976 and new sale business is beginning to approach the high levels attained in 1975.

\* In these circumstances coupled with your Company's strong financial position and in the absence of adverse economic circumstances your Board are quietly confident that further steady progress will be made during 1977.

Meeting 8th June, 1977

Dividend payable 5th July, 1977.

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### HEAD OFFICE

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

### Stock markets

## Oils prominent in late trading

Equities gave up a good part of Tuesday's gains as profits were inevitably taken.

Though the FT Index closed a full seven points down at 456.6, dealers were not discouraged. The selling was confined to the closing of speculative positions and did not represent a fundamental change of market mood. Late in the day, a good two-way trade developed as buyers came in again at the lower levels.

**Office and Electronic Machines** showed last year what it could do in recession and against a depreciating pound, a big point for an importer of German equipment. It hoisted sales and profits by nearly a fifth. Now the pound has steadied and new lines are being marketed. A bid could eventually appear when the chairman steps down. The shares are now 74p.

In the gilt-edged market, nearly all the interest was at the long end and stimulated by interest rate hopes. After some concern over the money supply had made for a hesitant start, prices went ahead in a modest turnover and by the close gains switched up to half a point.

By comparison, "shorts" were neglected and ended close to their overnight levels. For a multiplicity of reasons oil shares sprang to prominence late in the day. There is now a widespread belief that the Government sale of 66m BP shares will come this week and the shares, spurred by United States demand, closed 18p up at 944p. The chairman's overnight speech was an additional incentive here, but for Shell there was an entirely different picture.

The property group approached RIT and arranged to buy the shares for cash raised by placing 2.07m new shares in the market. The placing, which was announced after the market closed, left BL's shares just 1p lower at 45p last night. The RIT pur-

chase brought in 414,400 Bridgewater shares for £879,000.

But, interestingly, in BL's announcement it reports that it has taken on 419,000 Bridgewater shares, only a further 4,800, but perhaps an indication of the group's forward thinking.

Mr. J. L. Hacker, a Bridgewater director, says that there have been no talks with BL at any time and that he first knew of the sale shortly before its official announcement. In its bid defence against RIT Bridgewater argued that the group had a net asset value of over 500p per share (£2.5m) and that its growth in 1976's £543,000 pre-tax profits justified a 47 per cent increase in dividends to 20p gross per share.

Blackwood Hodge 50p to 125p gained ground and Avery 61p to the good at 155p. There was a strong second-half return.

In spite of a denial of take-over talks and the sale of assets, Hunting Gibson closed 3p up to 305p. There was a market talk here that the impending deal is more likely to involve the group's expanding oil interests than its simple insurance.

In insurance, Royal Gurney 6p to 353p after quarterly figures but the share of depressed Prudential, which lost 3p to 123p.

Nervousness about Courtaulds' forthcoming final figures brought persistent selling and the shares have not joined in the recent strong market rise. Profits are expected to be little different from last year's £53.7m. What dealers will be looking for are signs that the upturn in textiles is starting in earnest.

Engineers had a firmer-than-expected look with the exception of Hawker Siddeley which lost 12p to 550p on recent gains. Both GKN 4p to 340p and

Associated Dairies, BP, GEC Exploration, De Beers, Reynolds Parsons, Costain, Andre Silvert, bloc, Deritend Stamping, Laurence Scott, Thomson Organisation, AB Electronics and Burton "A".

### Latest dividends

Company	Ord par value	Pay date	Year's total div	Prev year
AB Electronics (25p)	4.43	—	6	5.2
Booth Int (25p) Fin	2.33	2.23	3.39	3.57
British Syphon (20p) Fin	0.79	1/7	1.39	1.26
City or Oxford (25p) Fin	1.87	4/7	3.0	2.4
Deritend Stamping (50p)	6.02	5.2	13.7	9.02
E. F. A. Ltd (25p) Fin	2.1	4/7	3.75	3.0
Exeter Hill (51) Fin	0.52	—	1.12	NH
Jersey Gen (51) Fin	4.5	2.0	6.40	4.0
Plaxton's (25p) Int	3.0	2.57	11.5	10.0
Transc & Gen (El)	2.1	4/7	3.75	3.0

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on peace per share. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.55.

## British Land now possible Bridgewater suitor

By John Brennan

Mr. John Ribblet's British Land has stepped in as the next possible suitor for Bridgewater Estates, Bridgewater, the Lancashire-based agricultural land and investment holding group, has just successfully defeated a 200p-a-share cash offer from Rothschild Investment Trust.

Rothschild has now sold on its 15.5 per cent stake in Bridgewater to BL at 212p a share, clearing a £25,000 profit on the deal.

The property group approached RIT and arranged to buy the shares for cash raised by placing 2.07m new shares in the market. The placing, which was announced after the market closed, left BL's shares just 1p lower at 45p last night. The RIT pur-

chase brought in 414,400 Bridgewater shares for £879,000. But, interestingly, in BL's announcement it reports that it has taken on 419,000 Bridgewater shares, only a further 4,800, but perhaps an indication of the group's forward thinking.

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Initially Phelps Dodge's interest in its subsidiary Black Mountain Mineral Development will be reduced to 49 per cent. However, the building may be diluted further if Phelps Dodge does not participate in any further financing.

The agreement in principle on GFSA's participation in the project was reached only after extensive discussions with several South African mining companies", a Phelps Dodge statement notes.

The statement comments that "several hurdles" will have to be overcome before the arrangement can be completed. Details regarding transportation facilities and water supply remain to be worked out as well as the preparation of definitive agreements and satisfactory arrangements for financing, although the statement comments that "substantial progress has already been made towards the resolution of these issues."

## Bowring narrows the trade gap

...with premium turnover in overseas currencies of £447,000,000 in 1976.

Bowring is one of the largest single contributors to this Country's invisible earnings. This contribution has resulted in C. T. Bowring (Insurance Holdings) Ltd. winning the Queen's Award for Export Achievement 1977.

During the past two years Bowring Insurance Broking has increased its premium turnover in overseas currencies two and a half times, namely from £177,000,000 in 1974 to £447,000,000 in 1976.

This is in addition to Bowring's overseas earnings from insurance underwriting, shipping, trading and banking and its income from overseas subsidiary and associated companies.



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The Bowring Building, Tower Place, London EC3P 3BE  
Telephone: 01-283 3100 Telex: 888321

## FINANCIAL NEWS

**EEC's tax harmonization plans could ease Unilever's burden**

Our Financial Staff lens by the EEC to harmonize tax structures through member countries could in that taxes on Unilever's fits would be reduced to acceptable proportions, David Orr, the chairman, shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting.

he present system in most countries does not allow sign shareholders to reduce the taxation, which is particularly disadvantageous for financial concerns like Unilever, he said.

Unilever hopes that EEC is to eliminate this discrimination will soon be adopted.

would be particularly valuable in respect of the substantial increased tax on profits the German subsidiary

Unilever's shares dropped by yesterday to 47p on its

shareholders may well feel aggrieved that after a year of outstanding profit growth the company is not permitted to propose a dividend payment of more than 10 per cent above last year, the chairman continued.

Some relaxation of dividend control has been allowed for companies with substantial overseas investment, the chairman said, and Unilever has approached the Treasury asking whether it could be allowed exemption.

However, the Treasury has informed Unilever that the policy guidelines under which some companies have been granted exemption are not intended to apply to firms like Unilever which have sizable UK operations.

Subsequently, the Treasury has clarified the rules in a way that clearly excludes us from exemption, Mr. Orr said.



Mr. David Orr, chairman of Unilever.

**has Hillils to take off**

Our Financial Staff the full year's results from Mr. Hill of Bristol show little improvement took in the second half. Pre-profits for 1976 were more halved to £170,000, with £382,000 on a record turnover of £13.5m, against 98m.

In the first half, pre-tax profits were also more than falling from £147,000 to 6,000. The board reported that the results were lower because of a number of reasons, that the last half of figures did better.

The last half's profit was £106,000, he fall in trading profit for

was even more marked, down from £420,000 to 6,000. But with a credit for rest of £9,000, compared

a charge of £58,000, and doubled associates' its of £36,000, against 6,000, the decline at the pre-level is softened.

However, shareholders will be dismayed—the total dividend is being boosted a 6.15p to 10p, with

its permission. An extra-charge of £528,000 last

is added to net profits after allowing for the dividends, retained profit is up a £141,000 to £44,000.

his group covers civil engineering, etc., ship-repairing engineering and transport, but the year's turnover excludes shipbuilding.

**Booth leaps over £1m but stays cautious**

By Ashley Drucker

Turnover picking up at the onset of 1976 in both its raw-stock business and English tanneries, Booth (International Holdings) finished the year to December 31 with the opening momentum more than maintained.

Profits at midyear at £551,000 pre-tax already exceeded its previous best-ever for a full 12 months, and for the whole of 1976 profits more than doubled to £1.16m. This is the first time this group of hide and skin products, processed hides and skins at home and abroad

Some 60 per cent of its turnover comes from overseas.

As in the past, the board is cautious on the outlook for 1977 in spite of reporting a good opening to the present term.

Jolly BTR looks abroad Andre Sienblanc is keeping its profits forecast fire to itself for the time being so the running yesterday was made by predator BTR. It already had just over 26 per cent of Sienblanc's equity and recently raised its cash offer from 50p to 55p. The share offer is of one-for-one.

To justify BTR Mr. Roy Hartley, Finance Secretary, is not referring the bid to the Monopolies Commission, nor incidentally the Institut SA of France acquisition of 22 per cent of Leed Industries Group.

For its part BTR used the annual meeting to indicate how well the group is doing. It is precluded by the Take-over Code from forecasting profits itself, but Sir David Nicolson, chairman and former chief of British Airways, was cheerful.

Apart from reporting a strong upswing in sales, the chairman said that the group was seeking possible takeovers in the United States.

He reminded his audience that BTR had already bought eight companies since he became chairman eight years ago.

**Bowring****"Success built on hard work, initiative and loyalty"**

At the A.G.M. held in London on 11th May the Chairman, Mr. Edgar Bowring, M.C. said

"We are very pleased and honoured that the contribution of the insurance industry to this country's "invisible" exports, and the important part played in that by Bowring's insurance broking activities, has been recognised by a Queen's Award for Export Achievement."

London's position as the centre of insurance has been built up over some 300 years by winning the confidence of world insurers and reinsurers in the expertise, strength, integrity, ingenuity and independence of the London Market. It is vitally important that nothing should be done in the pursuit of political dogma or political expediency to undermine that confidence."

The success of all sectors of the Bowring Group during 1976 has been built on hard work, initiative and loyalty. These qualities have been severely tested by continual inflation, pay restraint and penal taxation.

1977 has started well."

	1975	1976	Increase
TURNOVER	£883m	£945m	+6%
PROFIT before tax and extraordinary items	£15.4m	£25.8m	+66%
EARNINGS PER SHARE before extraordinary items	6.5p	11.7p	+80%
DIVIDEND	3.58p	4.05p	+14%
RETAINED PROFIT after extraordinary items	24.3m	£13.4m	+211%

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary,

**C. T. Bowring & Co. Ltd.**  
The Bowring Building, Tower Place, London EC3P 3BE  
Tel: 01-283 3100 Telex: 888321

**Deritend 'rights' after late rally falls short**

By Tony May

The coupling of a rights issue with a fall in profits by Deritend Stamping displeased the market, which promptly knocked 10p off the group's shares to leave them at 140p. This is still a discount of 12p on the rights price of 144p.

The issue is a two-for-five and is designed to raise about £1m for the purchase of more manufacturing equipment, as well as the reduction of working capital. It is underwritten, and allotment letters will be posted to shareholders on May 27. Dealings are expected to start on May 30.

Despite a rally in the second half, pre-tax profits of this forgings, castings, electrical installation and repair group are 9 per cent down at £1.2m for the year to end-February. Sales went up from £18.5m to £23.2m, pointing to a 10 per cent margin from 7.07 per cent to 5.24 per cent. Earnings a share are 22p against 25.5p, while the dividend is raised from 12.62p to 13.8p gross.

This is a maximum payment and gives a yield of 9.8 per cent. The board forecasts that the dividend for the current year will be "at least" maintained on the increased capital.

At half-way, the recession caught up with some of the group's products, and new ones were not yet profitable. Profits fell 37 per cent to £467,000. However, a better second half was looked for, and indeed profits rose 27 per cent to £744,000 during that half, on sales up 45 per cent at £2.57m. Even so margins dipped from 6.25 per cent, to 5.56 per cent—although this was an improvement on the 4.8 per cent of the first half.

Mr. Claud Perry, chairman, says that the forging and electrical divisions were well to the fore, and hopes that this upturn in demand will continue. Most of the group's companies have increased order books.

But the results for the manufacturing division were "disappointing". Some subsidiaries are still not profitable after the depression, while some of the new companies are not yet in a position to contribute to group results.

**Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Limited**

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

**South Africa must prove it has the ability and will to eliminate the grievances and resentments behind black unrest**

Mr. Harry Oppenheimer

**Quality of life**

There is a vital need for planning, organisation, finance and hard work for the purpose of improving the whole quality of life in the black urban areas. The primary responsibility lies with the government, but there is also a useful role for private South African citizens of goodwill, and particularly for the members of the business community, who may be in a position to help turn our black townships into places in which men may be able to live in comfort and with dignity.

**Urban Foundation**

We have accordingly joined with other leading South African businesses in forming an organisation to be known as the Urban Foundation, controlled by a board on which all our racial communities are represented, with the object of co-operating with all others concerned in the attainment of these objectives. The Foundation is raising initially a fund of R23 million, to which the Anglo American and De Beers groups have agreed to contribute R2 million each over a period of five years.

**Need for political action**

Since the basic reasons for the concern felt by foreign investors about South Africa are not economic but political, they can only be removed by action in the political field. The fundamental question is whether we in South Africa are going to be able to give proof of the ability and the will to eliminate the grievances and resentments which lie behind the rioting and unrest in the black areas of our major cities.

**Consolidated profit**

The Corporation's consolidated profit for 1976 at R86.28 million, 65.3 cents an ordinary share, was 1.8 per cent higher than in 1975. Bearing in mind the generally depressed conditions during the year and in particular the substantially lower gold price, these results are satisfactory and illustrate the advantages of the Corporation's diversified investments and broadly-based sources of earnings. The ordinary dividend was unchanged at 33 cents a share and was covered almost twice by earnings. If the Corporation's share of the undistributed profits from its investments were to be taken into account, total earnings would be about 132 cents a share and the dividend would be covered four times.

For a copy of the Chairman's full statement, please send the coupon to the address below.

To: Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited, Room 49, 40 Holborn Viaduct, LONDON EC1P 1AJ

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



The British Oil Company

**The Strength of Ultramar**

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Campbell Nelson

**The year in brief**

The financial results for 1976 were, on the whole, satisfactory. Group profit before taxation was £16.5 million and net earnings £11.3 million. These results were, however, markedly below the 1975 levels mainly because the adverse market conditions I referred to in my Statement last year persisted, particularly in our Quebec, Ontario and UK marketing operations.

In 1976 we had a Rights Issue, and two major loan financings. This injection of new funds enabled us to repay some short-term loans, maintain our heavy capital expenditure programme and increase our working capital. As a result the Group Balance Sheet shows a much stronger position.

**Where our strength lies**

The strength of Ultramar is that it is a multinational integrated oil operation. It operates or buys or sells or has trading interests in twenty countries, and has oil and gas reserves in Indonesia, Western Canada and in the U.S.A., which we report for the first time in the Annual Report.

Even when the nationalisation of Venezuelan oil occurred at the end of 1975 Ultramar was able to absorb the loss of its oil reserves and royalties in that country and yet come up with its second best ever earnings the following year.

**Summarised financial results**

	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972
Sales	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Profit before taxation	571,875	275,344	251,454	171,728	123,041
Taxation	16,477	22,574	14,449	9,885	6,391
Net earnings	5,220	6,154	3,864	985	319
Capital expenditures	11,257	16,420	10,785	8,700	6,072
Earnings per ordinary share:	32,655	34,289	16,493	17,183	21,194
Basic	29.0p	45.2p	29.7p	24.0p	17.5p
Fully diluted	27.0p	Not applicable			
Ordinary share distribution	1 for 15	1 for 15	1 for 15	1 for 20	1 for 25

**Investment and return**

Our two greatest investments in recent years have been £84 million in Quebec and £56 million in Indonesia.

As regards Quebec we have not so far seen an acceptable return on our investment. I am confident we will: the outlook for 1977 is better than the results for 1976.

Our Indonesian oil production in 1976 gave us an appreciable addition to Group profits, but it is the gas and condensate production which will make a really significant difference to our operational results. Everything points to the liquefied natural gas operation starting up in a very few months time.

**Benefits to shareholders**

These two large investments could not have been possible without the forbearance, year after year, of shareholders over payment of cash dividends. I ask you to be patient for a little longer and let us show you the full results of your forbearance.

While we are projecting sharply reduced capital expenditures in 1977, our objective remains controlled, profitable growth. At the same time we are looking to increased benefits from recent capital investment out of which to begin the payment of cash dividends.

Thanks to staff  
1976 was a testing year for the Staff of the Group. They stood all the strains and stresses, and I admire them greatly and thank them all on your behalf.

**Outlook**

There is great confidence in the Group that we shall do well in 1977. How much better is difficult to predict partly because of the uncertainty over currency exchange rates.

Operationally there has been a turn around in the difficult areas as well as a continuation of good performance in the areas in which we did well in 1976. In addition we expect to have the appreciable new source of profits from Indonesia gas and condensate in the second half of 1977.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London EC2 on Wednesday 25th May at 11.30 a.m.

To obtain a copy of the 1976 Annual Report please complete and return the coupon below.

To: The Secretaries  
Ultramar Company Limited,  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**Ultramar Company Limited</**





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**OFFICE MANAGEMENT**

London, W.1

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**ASSISTANT TO ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR—SCRIPTS**

An interesting post has arisen in the script department of the National Theatre. The post is assistant to the Associate Director—Scripts. The responsibilities will include assisting with the preparation of all scripts submitted, including receiving all screen rights, reading, re-mailing and arranging for reading, re-mailing and despatch. You will assist the Associate Director in contact with dramatists, agents and others for the preparation of production material. You will also assist the Associate Director in the National Theatre's touring activities. Candidates must have an Arts Degree or a knowledge of French or German. You will be asked to help with secretarial training. Previous theatre administration or literary agency research would be an advantage. Details available on application. Applications should be made in confidence, stating qualifications and experience to Mr. Kennedy, The National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1.

**Greater London Fund for the Blind**

seeks from 1st August  
**APPEALS OFFICER**

Preferred with fund-raising experience, but not necessarily. Must be prepared to communicate effectively and co-ordinate all field work in down-wards areas. Good speaking and writing ability. Age 25-35. Salary £4,000 p.a. to commence. Details available, negotiable. Pension scheme available. Applications in confidence, stating availability, with c.v. to General Secretary, 2 Wyndham Place, London NW1 2AQ.

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Applications accompanied by a brief c.v. should be sent to Mr. A. D. Walker, Richards, Butler & Co., 5 Clifton Street, London E.C.2.

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required for luxury Department of exporting company. Bevilaqua area specialist in management consulting and executive services. At least five years' experience in similar industry desirable. Age 30-40. Salary ranging from £3,000. Send resume to: The Times.

**UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS**

University of Dar Es Salaam

TANZANIA

Applications are invited for the following posts in the

**ECONOMIC RESEARCH BUREAU**

(1) 3 RESEARCH FELLOWS. Candidates must hold a P.B.E. in Management Studies with a major in Economics. Applications for Agricultural Economics, Economic Planning, Economics, Statistics and Management Sciences are particularly welcome. Preference will be given to holders of a post-graduate degree in Economic Management. Preference will be given to candidates who have conducted research in one or more of the following fields: particularly in developing countries. Those with at least two years' relevant experience in government departments or international organizations will also be considered.

(2) ASSISTANT RESEARCH FELLOW. Applications for a post held by a holder of a second class honours degree in Economic Theory with a major in Economics. Those with substantial research experience in government departments or international organizations will also be considered.

(3) RESEARCH FELLOW. Applications for a post held by a holder of a first class honours degree in Economics. Those with at least two years' relevant experience in government departments or international organizations will also be considered.

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